

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
(UN-OHRLLS)

Introduction

The High Representative noted that OHRLLS launched the Most Vulnerable 91 Dashboard in 2020 to better understand the scale of COVID-19 related financial assistance to support the LDCs,

actively engaged in advocating the inclusion of the LLDC issues in important processes including the Financing for Development, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and others. He concluded by urging all members of the Inter-Agency Group on LLDCs to give priority

LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. He highlighted that several countries have been contacted to identify a

component of their financing mix at each stage of their development. He informed that during 2020, OECD had upgraded "Transition Finance Toolkit" to tailor the analysis to LLDCs while publishing a Transition Finance Dashboard, which could be found on the OECD website, and

and information, and to have the network which allows countries to learn from each other and to mitigate challenges.

Ms. Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP, New York Office, congratulated Mr. Courtenay Rattray for his new post. After acknowledging the

that CFC was engaged on a blockchain project with a coffee grind off taker in the value chain. He highlighted that if successfully implemented, the project could be used as a template on how to increase productivity in the value chain. He emphasized that to achieve this goal, more focus on data driven agriculture, digital agriculture, digitalization, trade readiness of women was needed for the LLDCs. He called on the UN Technology Bank to allocate resources to guide the Fund

highlighted 3 priorities. First was the fair shot of vaccine.

Mr. Ronald Antonio Q. Butiong, Chief, Regional Cooperation and Integration Thematic Group Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank, stated that ADB was pleased to be a partner in implementing the VPoA in particular in its 12 LLDC members situated in Central, South, and South-East Asia. He indicated that the programme supported by ADB had been focusing on helping landlocked developing members improve connectivity infrastructure, expand access to regional and global markets, attract international investment, provide increased and diversified regional public goods, particularly strengthen regional health security, address climate change impacts, manage regional disaster risks, and tackle cross border environmental threats. He noted that ADB supported landlocked developing members in these areas by delivering mostly through 3 sub-regional cooperation programmes, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation programme, the Greater Mekong Sub-region GMS Economic Cooperation programme and South Asia Sub-region Economic Cooperation programme (for which the Bank plays the role of Secretariat) (knowledge provider, capacity builder, resource mobilizer and lead financier). He highlighted that the multimodal transport connectivity and trade facilitation were key sectors of these programmes which were highly relevant and beneficial to LLDC members.

Regarding the progress on the implementation of the Roadmap he indicated that for the period 2020-2022, ADB planned to continue supporting LLDC members in relevant sectors. He however noted that in general, processing of investment projects had encountered delays due to the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated shifting resources from these projects to pandemic emergency response. On transport, he reported that 23 investment projects amounting to about US\$3.2 billion and covering the subsectors of road, railway, airport and logistics were programmed to improve connectivity which would improve LLDC members' linkages with outside markets, expand their national trade, and support international tourism. He reported that in 2020, 6 projects for US\$760 million were approved, but in 2021, 4 projects so far for US\$400 million were expected to be approved, and processing of the rest of the programme in the transport sector will be deferred to 2022 and 2023. On energy, 16 projects were reported

Readiness Assessment (RRA) tool. He noted that RRA implementation was ongoing for Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay and in the process of scoping RRA support for Chad. On the energy- health nexus, he indicated that IRENA, in partnership with the government of Burkina Faso, was conducting an assessment for electrification of rural health facilities to facilitate electricity access to unelectrified rural health centers particularly in relation to the COVID-19 response as applicable. He reported that IRENA was exploring possibilities to provide similar support to additional LLDCs. He further reported that IRENA continued to progressively support member countries in updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and enhance renewable energy ambitions under Paris Agreement for the submission prior to COP 26. He noted that e

African countries, LDCs and LLDCs. She stressed all these COVID-19 related activities have enabled the identification of important recommendations that feed into advocacy work and in the report of the Secretary General. The meetings facilitated experience-sharing amongst LLDCs

rising cases of not only COVID-19 but also diphtheria, polio and malaria in some LLDCs. She stressed that there was a great need to improve LLDCs' testing capacities as well as their access to vaccines and other health equipment. He highlighted that another key area of support had been to enhance digital and analytical tools in LLDCs, which could greatly help mitigate the pandemic.

Dr. Menabde reiterated the need for LLDCs to vaccinate their populations and highlighted that 28 LLDCs were participating in the COVAX vaccine facility in order to get access to vaccines. He informed that the total number of doses to be provided through the facility in 2021 covers about 3.3%

and human resources to access, adapt and adopt new technologies while guaranteeing an adequate regulatory environment.

Regarding the contribution of the Technology Bank, Mr. Kao indicated that the Bank was engaged in the discussions relating to the creation of a technology transfer platform that would allow transfers of technology to LDCs and LLDCs. He further indicated that the Technology Bank, together with the Turkish research institution, were developing a technology transfer model, which would be piloted in Gambia, before being extended to other LDCs and LLDCs. He informed that the Bank had partnered with the Russian technology transfer office, to facilitate the transfer of Russian technology to LDCs and LLDCs on a voluntary basis. He further informed that to support LDCs, the Technology Bank is undertaking 16 technology needs assessments in 2021 to identify their technology priorities, which include six LLDCs (Afghanistan, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda, and Zambia). He shared that the Turkish government provided funding to the Bank to support Uganda under the SDG impact accelerator on identifying digital agriculture solutions. He noted that the Bank also planned to provide support on the use of satellite technology for disaster risk management in Malawi, Nepal and Niger. He further noted that the Bank had supported Malawi, Lesotho and DRC to establish their academies of science and that the support would be extended to other LLDCs. He informed that the Bank was in the process of drafting a flag report on science, technology and innovation in LDCs in preparation for the Fifth UN conference on LDCs, which will include numerous case studies of LDCs and LLDCs. He emphasised that the upcoming LDCs Conference should leverage the power of science technology and innovation to address the various challenges faced by LDCs and LLDCs. In concluding, Mr. Kao called for more support to the technology bank, which was financed through donations and contributions.

Mr. Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer in the Section on Countries in Special Situations at ESCAP, shared highlights of the work of ESCAP related to supporting 12 LLDCs and the implementation of the VPoA. He reported that ESCAP held several meetings and capacity building workshops, notably in the area of transportation and connectivity. The events aimed at improving connectivity of Asian LLDCs to the regional and global supply chains through their greater integration into the regional network of Asian Highways, Trans-Asian railways and dry ports. In the area of trade facilitation, he indicated that ESCAP supported LLDCs in joining the framework agreement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade. He reported that ESCAP notably assisted Mongolia and Tajikistan in establishing domestic accession procedures and conducted readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Lao PDR. He further reported that ESCAP worked with central Asian LLDCs, notably through the SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy. He noted that the objectives of SPECA largely overlap with those of the VPoA. He recalled that the SPECA economic forum was held in Nov 2020 to foster regional cooperation as a way to support socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 and participants acknowledged digitalisation as being a vector for economic transformation and agreed to scale up the sharing of experiences and expertise in this area. Mr. Tateno emphasised that ESCAP

digital innovation created in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the UNDP accelerator labs also aimed to scale up solutions in LLDCs. He highlighted that UNDP supported 115 countries, and that the accelerator labs had helped establish 17 local solutions in 2020 and the solutions were available to LLDCs. He informed that UNDP together with the International Telecommunication Union, launched a joint facility to equip people with indispensable digital skills, especially in LLDCs. He also informed that UNDP partnered with Jumia – Uganda’s leading E-commerce company – to launch an online platform connecting small companies and consumers.

Regarding support related to the energy sector, he indicated that UNDP was implementing the African Mini-Grids programme (AMP) which covers 18 countries including 8 LLDCs. He noted that the AMP aimed to improve access to energy by enhancing the financial viability while promoting commercial investments. On climate change he noted that the UNDP’s Climate Promise was assisting 118 countries in embracing clean technologies, boosting their economies and creating jobs. He stated that the current pandemic called for a combination of concessional financing, debt relief and transformative reforms and therefore UNDP provided support to 71 countries within the Integrated National Financing Framework. He reported that on COVID-19, UNDP had mobilised close to \$1 bn to respond to COVID-19, with particular emphasis on governance, digitalisation, and social protection. He highlighted that UNDP launched a vaccine equity to offer for greater equity, resilience, and sustainability and that three solutions were promoted under the offer: the development of digital solutions allowing a more effective distribution of vaccines, the availability of reliable data and the greening of COVID vaccines. He gave an example

Mr. Jorge A Lupano, ECLAC, reported that ECLAC introduced a new methodology to develop sustainable and connectivity indicators for Paraguay in 2020 and that the new methodology was recently presented to members of the government. Mr. Lupano then gave the floor to Ms. Mical

- In 2020, the road freight transport industry annual revenue losses amounted to 643 billion USD. In 2021 the losses are predicted to hit 347 billion USD which translates to a 13% decline. 5%-10% of freight transport companies have already gone out of business with the consequence that 6 million trucks today stand idle.
- Even worse was the impact on international bus and coach services. In many cases, they

IRU, as an implementing partner of UN Conventions is already taking concrete steps and with competent national authorities, we are implementing concrete e-Corridor Projects including in countries such as Mongolia and Afghanistan.

To conclude: We need global coordination in this difficult time. LLDCs need road transport to recover from COVID-19

Annex I: List of Participants

African Development Bank (AfDB)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative to the United Nations. Email: rpowell@imf.org

Ms. Ariane Joab Cornu, IMF Senior Liaison Officer to the United Nations.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Mr Wilfried Biya, Permanent Observer to United Nations

Regional Commissions Office New York

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

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United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Mr. Earle Courtenay Rattray, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Email: erdenebileg@un.org

Ms. Gladys Bindura Mutangadura, Senior Programme Management Officer. Email:

Annex II: Agenda

Twelfth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

15 July 2021

Virtual meeting (via Microsoft Teams)

9:00 – 9:40	Opening Session Opening remarks by Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS Remarks by Mr. Arman Issetov, Chair of LLDCs and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.
9:40– 12:00	Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, on activities in the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of VPoA Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief Presentation by participating organizations on activities undertaken since the last IACG, in particular progress in implementation of activities listed in the Roadmap, brief updates on the response to the impacts of COVID-19 on LLDCs and upcoming activities of importance to LLDCs
11:45 – 12:00	Closing Session

Concluding remarks by Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
Chair: Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of VPoA