

# Support for Landlocked Developing Countries: Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action and other areas of support

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supporting  
**Least Developed Countries**  
**Landlocked Developing Countries**  
**Small Island Developing States**

United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries,  
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

# Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs (VPoA)



- ❖ Outcome of 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Conference on LLDCs
- ❖ 6 priority areas:
  - 1. Fundamental Transit Policy**
  - 2. Infrastructure Development & Maintenance**
  - 3. International trade & trade facilitation**
  - 4. Regional Integration & Cooperation**
  - 5. Structural Economic Transformation**
  - 6. Means of Implementation**



# High-Level Midterm Review- VPoA

- Held in 2019 to assess the progress made, identify obstacles and constraints encountered and recommendations to accelerate implementation.
- Regional Review meetings – Europe and Asia, Africa and Latin America
- High-level Meeting in New York 5-6 December 2019.
- Progress made but there were still major challenges.
- Political declaration adopted has important areas for action:
  - Ratification and effective implementation legal instruments
  - Resilient transit transport infrastructure
  - Corridor development
  - Trade facilitation
  - Structural transformation



# Side event at the High-level Meeting

- Modernization of the transit process – opportunities offered by TIR - UNECE, OHRLLS, IRU and WCO
- Attended by LLDCs and transit countries
- Discussed the many opportunities offered to LLDCs by the ongoing TIR digitalization efforts and the transit facilitation tools and initiatives
- Participants noted that e-TIR is a best practice in the area of transit and trade facilitation that is crucial for faster clearance



# Quantifying transport costs

- Workshop co-organized with UNECE in Sept 2019
- The meeting noted that the importance of developing a comprehensive methodology to incorporate both soft and hard infrastructure related costs, to measure the economic distance to markets and assess efficiency of administrative processes in LLDCs.



# Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of VPoA

- Roadmap of concrete activities and deliverables by the UN system and other organizations for accelerated implementation of the VPoA in the remaining 5 years.
- Detailed mapping against the key UN action key areas such as Transit, trade and transport facilitation, energy, ICT, structural transformation, climate change, COVID-19 etc
- Some of UNECE activities:
  - Promote transport infrastructure connectivity
  - Provide important information from the newly established International Transport Infrastructure Observatory
  - Contribute to increased transport and trade facilitation through eTIR International System on specific transport corridors including LLDCs
  - Joint project on quantifying transport costs for LLDCs.



# Thank You

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