

The Vienna Programme of Action and Enhancing transit and efficient transport connectivity for LLDCs in COVID-19 era

Ms. Gladys Mutangadura
Senior Programme Officer
UN-OHRLLS



UN-OHRLLS

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)



- 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**



Priority Area 1: Transit issues

Specific objectives:

- (a) To reduce travel time along corridors, allow transit cargo to move 300 to 400 km every 24 hrs;
- (b) To significantly reduce the time spent at land borders;
- (c) To significantly improve intermodal connectivity

Actions by LLDCs and transit countries:

- Simplification and harmonization of regulations, requirements and documentation related to transit systems
- Accession, ratification and effective implementation of relevant international, and regional conventions
- Cooperation on transit policies and regulations (border and customs control) and information & data sharing



Priority 2. Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Emphasizes: Development and maintenance of transit transport, ICT & energy infrastructure

Actions by LLDCs and transit countries:

- Collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems
- Develop effective logistics systems
- Close missing links

Development Partners to: assist LLDCs and transit countries development of infrastructure and closing missing links and experience sharing on transit transport develop.



Priority 3 – Int. trade & trade facilitation

Specific objectives on trade facilitation:

- (a) Simplify and streamline border crossing procedures;
- (b) Improve transit facilities and their efficiency;
- (c) Ensure all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are in accordance with WTO TF Agreement.

Actions by LLDCs and transit countries:

- Scale up and implement trade facilitation initiatives
- Ensure inclusive representation of private sector
- Share best practices on customs and border management

Development partners: support to LLDCs and transit countries in trade facilitation, support capacity-building



Priority Area 4. Regional Integration

Regional integration and cooperation with transit countries very important for LLDCs' transit

Actions by LLDCs and transit countries:

- Deepen regional integration and cooperation – trade, transport, ICT, energy
- Harmonize regional policies

Development partners: Support regional integration projects and efforts; Support sharing of best practices on regional integration



VPOA Midterm Review & Impact of COVID-19

- Held in Dec 2019 to assess the progress made.
- Progress has been 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
 - Scale up trade facilitation
 - Enhanced regional integration and cooperation
- COVID-19 affected both soft and hard infrastructure related issues to transport connectivity



COVID-19 Recovery efforts

Greater cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries

Health

Protect the safety of:

- transport workers,
- personnel at borders
- citizens

Transit, Transport & Trade, facilitation

- Simplified harmonized fast tracked border processes
- Digital technologies
- Keep trade flowing

Hard Infrastructure

- Corridor infrastructure
- Infrastructure at inland border-crossing points



Suggestions/Way forward

- Intensify implementation of actions highlighted in VPoA
- Develop efficient transport systems, smooth functioning transit, transport and trade corridors resilient to crises.
- Enable expedited release and clearance of essential goods.
- Enhance sharing of information between neighbouring countries and national border agencies.
- Greater use of digital technologies – eTIR
- Guidance for health and safety
- Greater coordinated and harmonized interventions between national border agencies
- Strengthen regional cooperation on transport connectivity.
- Ensure freedom of transit in line with provisions of international legal framework.
- Greater partnerships are needed.
- Capacity and financial support to LLDCs and transit countries is critical.



UN-OHRLLS related activities

- Coordinating a Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of VPoA in the remaining 5 years with concrete activities and deliverables by the UN system and other organizations.
- Advocacy efforts – issued 2 statements
- Working with regional commissions on a project to promote transport connectivity - training
- Co-organizing with Government of Turkmenistan LLDC ministerial conference on transport



Thank You

www.un.org/ohrlls



UN-OHRLLS

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