

# • Facilitation of Transit for Landlocked Developing Countries

• Seminar for the Promotion of Electronic Exchange of Customs Information and the Adoption of Standard Electronic Messages

20-21 June 2016

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# About UN-OHRLLS



UN-OHRLLS



Supports 92 vulnerable countries  
with a combined population of 1.1  
billion people



Coordinates and implements  
Programmes of Action



Advocates in favor of vulnerable  
country groups



Mobilizes international support

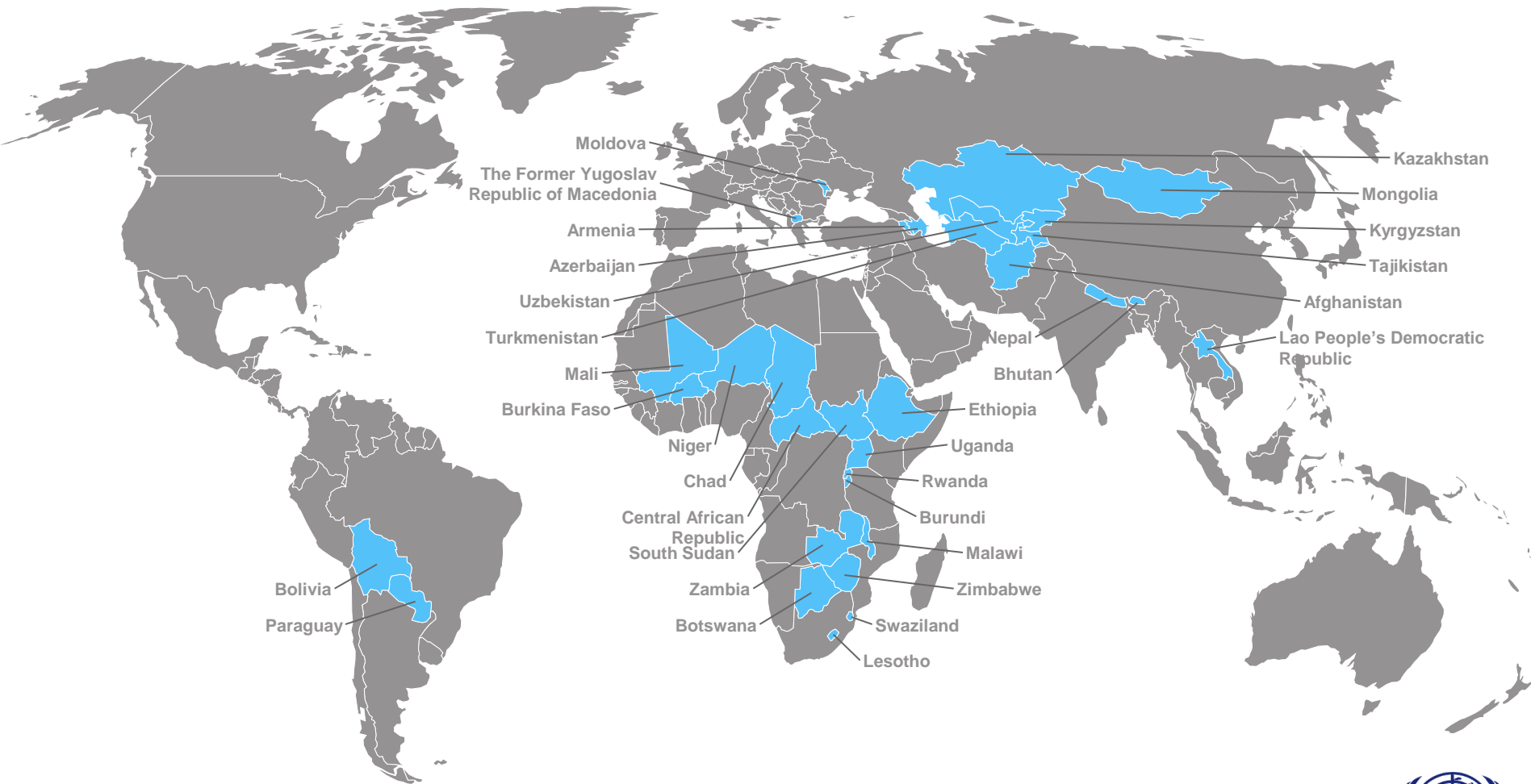


Supports countries through the  
United Nations system

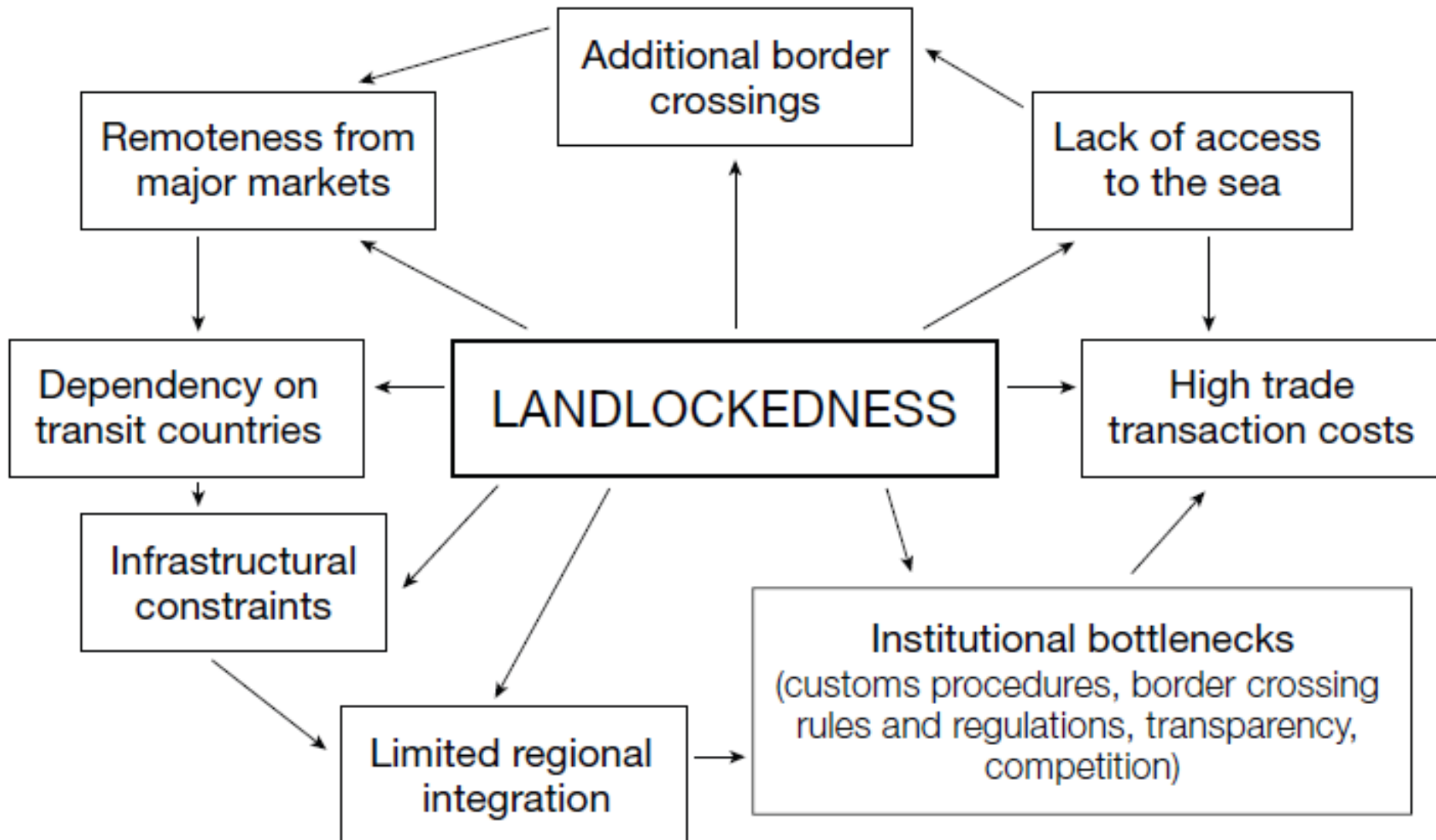


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# Landlocked Developing Countries



# Development Challenges Linked to Landlockedness



# LLDCs trade less and pay more than coastal countries

- **LLDCs' trade is 61% of the trade volume of coastal countries**
- **Transport costs for LLDCs are 45% higher than the coastal economies and have increased over time**
- **The level of development in LLDCs is about 20% lower than if they had not been landlocked**

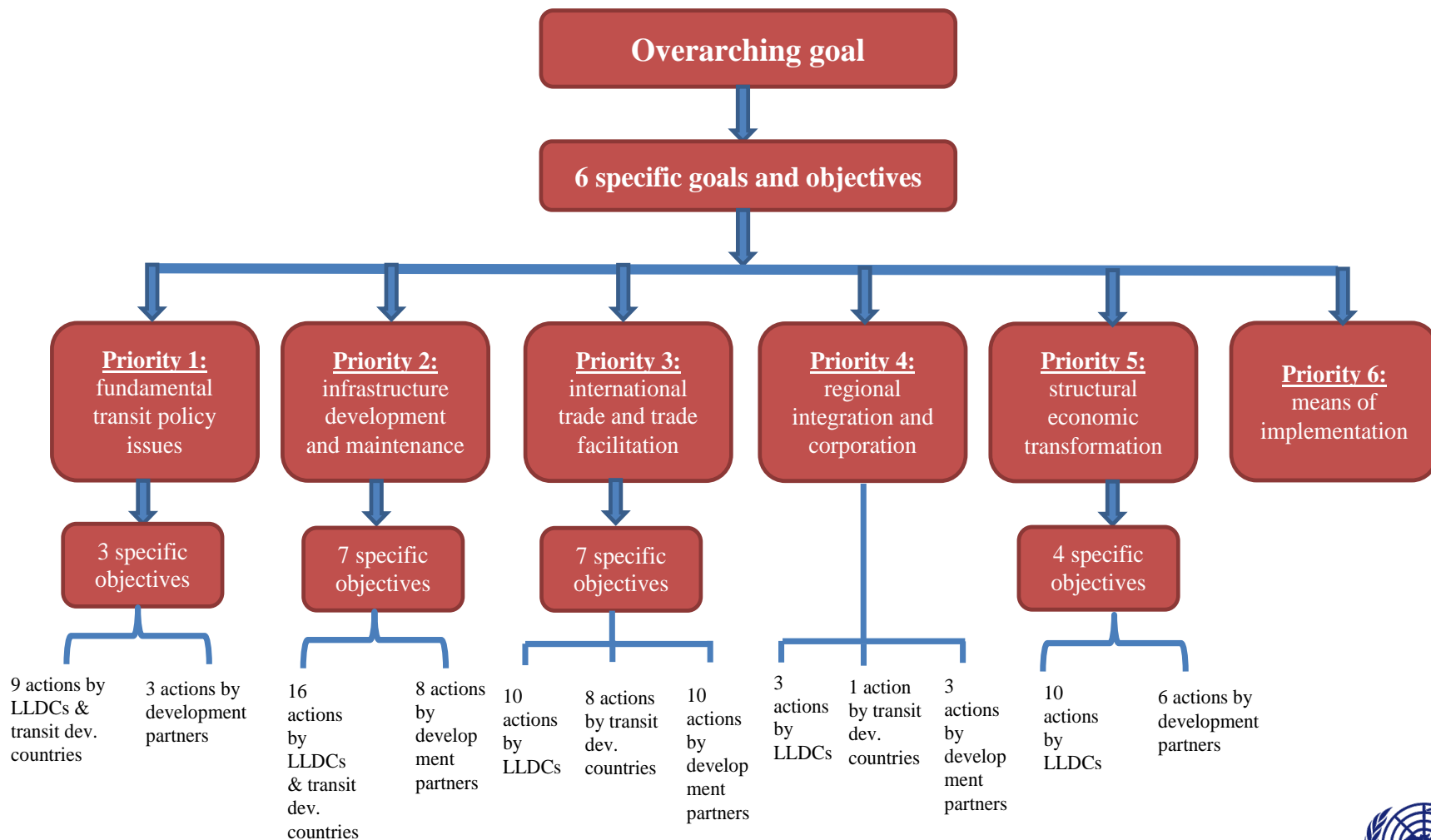


# Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA)

- **Holistic, forward looking and results-oriented Programme**
- **Based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours and their development partners**
- **Overarching goal to address the special development needs and challenges of the LLDCs arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and contribute to enhanced sustainable and inclusive growth and poverty eradication**



# Structure of the VPoA



# Priority Areas

- 1) Fundamental transit policy issues
- 2) Infrastructure development and maintenance
  - a) Transport Infrastructure
  - b) Energy and ICT infrastructure **NEW**
- 3) International trade and trade facilitation
- 4) Regional integration and cooperation **NEW**
- 5) Structural economic transformation **NEW**
- 6) Means of implementation





# Specific Objectives (examples)

- Reduce travel time along corridors and time spent at borders
- Complete missing links in transit transport networks
- Expand and upgrade energy and ICT infrastructure
- Significantly increase participation of LLDCs in global trade
- Significantly simplify border crossing procedures
- Promote regional integration and harmonization of regional policies
- Increase economic and export diversification and value addition in manufacturing and agriculture
- Encourage flow of FDI in high-value added sectors



# Importance of transit for LLDCs

**Access to and from sea and freedom of transit critical for development of LLDCs and integration into global system**

**Priority 1 of VPoA: Fundamental transit policy issues**

***Specific objectives:***

- (a) Reduce travel time along corridors
- (b) Reduce time spent at land borders
- (c) Improve intermodal connectivity



# Fundamental transit policy issues

- Accede/ratify and implement legal instruments
- Border and customs controls coordination, cooperation and information sharing
- Avoid establishing quotas and restrictions on transit
- Simplification, transparency and harmonization of transit regulations and requirements
- Effective logistics systems
- Involve transport business associations
- National transit policies and multi-stakeholder mechanisms
- Exchange data for faster cross-border transactions
- Partners to support creation of effective transit transport systems



# Use of ICT for transit transport in VPoA

- LLDCs and transit countries to fully utilize ICT to modernize transit, transport, customs and other border facilities [37(c)]
- LLDCs to develop their service sectors through development of ICT infrastructures in order to reduce transit time and cost and modernize transit and customs facilities [37 (f)]
- Development partners to provide capacity-building to LLDCs for the use of modern and affordable ICTs [38(d)] and support for facilitating access to ICTs for infrastructure development [38(e)]
- LLDCs to implement trade facilitation initiatives, including electronic payment [51(b)]
- Transit countries to promote the use of electronic (e-transaction) processes and the pre-arrival submission of customs declarations [52(b)]



# Implementation of VPoA is key

- **Implementation of VPoA actions would facilitate establishment of efficient transit transport systems and help integrate LLDCs into regional and global trading system**
- **Partnerships and support from transit countries and development partners necessary**
- **Mainstreaming is crucial for effective implementation**
  - At national level (Governments)
  - At regional and subregional level (regional commissions and regional and sub-regional organizations)
  - At global level (UN system)
- **Need to ensure coherence with global development frameworks**



# WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and LLDCs

## WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement has potential to bring concrete benefits to LLDCs

- Potential trade cost reduction for LLDCs from TFA -> 15.4%

## TFA articles important for LLDCs

- Article 7: Release and clearance of goods
- Article 9: Border agency cooperation
- Article 10: Formalities for export, import and transit
- Article 11: Freedom of Transit
- Article 12: Customs cooperation
- Support for capacity building

⇒ **Early ratification of the TFA is crucial**

⇒ **Targeted support to LLDCs is needed**



# Thank You

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