

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

Report of the Tenth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Followup and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

Virtual Meeting (via Microsoft Teams)

23 June 2020

implementation of the VPoA is currently being compiled with the inputs of the organizations. The USG also

## Consultations on the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA in its remaining five years, including UN system support to LLDCs on COVID-19 impacts

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS gave an overview of the Roadmap. He began with an update on the Midterm Review of the VPoA, noting that much progress has been made, but the levels of progress are still insufficient to achieve the VPoA targets. He informed that UN-OHRLLS was tasked to prepare the Roadmap, and that inputs to the Roadmap from more than 30 agencies and organizations have been received. He highlighted that the Roadmap is designed to outline concrete deliverables to be supported by the UN system and other international and regional organizations towards the VPoA implementation going forward.

Mr. Erdenebileg gave a brief overview of the components of the Roadmap, touching on its guiding principles (Part I) to enhance coordination and synergies and Delivering as One; leverage the UN development system reform; integrate the LLDC priorities in sustainable development discussions and processes; strengthen innovative partnerships and promote good practices and sharing of experiences. He then described Part II of the Roadmap which provides specific calls to action from policy makers, private sector multilateral and regional development banks and the UN system. He noted that Part III focuses on the key action areas that the UN and other international and regional organizations will focus on, which covers broadly the priorities of the VPoA, dimate action, International Think Tank for LLDCs, impacts of COVID-19, gender equality and various stakeholder networks. He informed that Part IV provides the detailed mapping of UN system activities and concrete deliverables, based on the inputs received. He noted that some activities are listed as proposals, which reflect activities not in the works yet or require mobilization of funding for their implementation and encouraged organizations to review the list to ensure that their activities are correctly reflected. Part V focuses on implementation, noting that it will be regularly reviewed in the context of the IACG and reported on in the annual report of the SG on the implementation of the VPoA.

Mr. Erdenebileg emphasized that the Roadmap is not meant to be exhaustive and should remain a living document and facilitate collaboration across agencies. He asked for any remaining inputs to the Roadmap to be sent to OHRLLS by 30 June, after which the Roadmap will be finalized and sent to the IAOG, as well as the office of the Secretary-General, Chair of the LLDCs who in turn will submit it to the Group of LLDCs to be discussed at the HLPF side event.

Mr. Michael W. Lodge, Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) outlined that the mandate given by UNCLOS (UN Convention for the Law of the Sea) to ISA was to regulate and manage deep-sea mineral activities in the international seabed area (Area). This also includes the need to ensure the protection of deep-sea marine environment and biodiversity as well as promoting and encouraging marine scientific research in the Area. He recalled that LLDCs fought hard to see their rights reflected in the negotiations that resulted in the adoption of UNCLOS. These included the right of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit as well as the inclusion of specific provisions recognizing the special requirements of developing landlocked states. LLDCs also have the same rights as coastal States to participate in exploitation of surplus living resources in the exclusive economic zones, to flag vessels with their national flags

innovation eco-

She explained that FAO supports strengthening of national capacities in LLDCs, including by supporting formulation of trade-related policies, providing analysis to inform trade policy decisions, capacity development and training activities, supporting regional trade integration, providing assistance in

Mr. Iziraren moved on to discussing the role that technology, connectivity

in LLDCs, LDCs, and SDS. Within the context of this revitalized partnership, IRENA is excited to be participating in the development of the Roadmap. Mr. Abdel-Latif suggested that one important deliverable would be the preparation of joint action-o

## Ms. Mara Murillo, the representative of UNEP started

in areas such as energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, support on natural disasters and environmental degradation, as indicated in the Roadmap. She added that UNEP offers many resources, such as their Environmental Outlook Report that can offer useful policy recommendations for LLDCs or the World Environmental Stuation Room. She informed that UNEP is also working on strengthening partnerships with other UN entities in the framework of the UNDS repositioning.

-19 response which focuses on helping incorporate environmental

-19 pandemic, including  $\amalg DCs.$  She added that

UNEP ed around four building blocks, namely medical and humanitarian emergency phase; transformational change for people and planet;

ally

and reinforce skills in LLDCs. He added that ITU has been strengthening partnerships with other organizations to provide ICT support in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture and employment creation.

Mr. Zavazava highlighted some concrete technical work that ITU has been carrying out recently, including supporting infrastructure development; bolstering national cybersecurity efforts; supporting digital inclusion and digital innovation ecosystems, including through Global ecosystem Programme for LLDCs; modernizing digital infrastructure; supporting deployment of digital services and applications; policy and regulation and providing statistics, analytical reports and visualizations to support evidence-based policies.

Mr. Arjun Goswami, the representative of the Asian Development Bank **outlined the synergies between** ADB efforts and the VPoA and the Roadmap, noting that many developing country members of the ADB are LLDCs. efforts targeting energy and transport issues, with the ADB working heavily with both Governments and the private sector, giving the example of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-

## Mr. Ikuru Nogami, the representative of the ITC

improve their competitiveness and connect them to markets. He informed that since the VPoA adoption, ITC has implemented more than 40 projects and published around 20 reports pertaining to LLDCs. Discussing the current global pandemic, Mr. Nogami highlighted how the restriction on movement of people and goods and slowdown

Mr. Gustavo Katz Braga, the representative of the CFC touched on the challenges that LLDCs face resulting from their landlocked position and how these have hindered competitiveness and economic development. He highlighted that LLDCs often rely on low-value agricultural commodities for their export earnings, making them vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. To overcome these challenges, he informed that CFC is encouraging LLDCs to invest in the productive sectors by strategically re-investing commodity derived incomes. He explained that the CFC is targeting SMEs to help them scale up on the value chains. Mr. Braga highlighted that 19 projects were approved in LLDCs since 2014, totalling \$49.2 million, with \$15.3 million committed by the CFC. Looking forward, he noted that CFC is expecting to commit a further \$60 million for projects in the next five years, of which \$16 million will be for development of innovative enterprise in commodity sectors in LLDCs. These projects are expected to benefit nearly 300,000 individuals, mostly smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on gender equality and increased annual income across the board.

Mr. Braga discussed the current efforts by the CFC in ensuring value chains in LLDCs stay active in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting SMEs, and closely monitoring the situation of the commodity producers and actively engaging with its borrowers to understand the particularities of their challenges. To ensure these efforts continue to prosper, the CFC intends to implement an emergency liquidity facility

to deal with border restrictions and travel restrictions, enhance cross-sectoral coordination and employ necessary financial measures. Ms. De Bodt noted that to implement these guidelines, ICAO is producing hands-on implementation packages that offer standardized guidance, including materials, tools, training and technical assistance. She concluded that ICAO is looking at UN entities to support the roll-out of these implementation packages and expressed readiness to look into the roll-out specifically for LLDCs. She concluded by promising to send inputs to the Roadmap by 30 June.

Mr. Yoshinobu Takei, the representative of DOALOS role, as the secretariat for UNCLOS, to provide support to States with a view to promoting better understanding of UNCLOS, its wider acceptance, uniform and consistent application and effective implementation and also assists Member States in their efforts to derive benefits from the legal regime reflected. He stressed that many provisions of UNCLOS are aimed to ensure access to and from the sea and transit by LLDCs, and that there are a number of benefits derived from becoming party to UNCLOS, however, 12 LLDCs are not yet party to it. He highlighted that it is crucial that the Roadmap facilitates the provision of support to LLDCs to become party to UNCLOS and fully benefit from the oceans. He mentioned that DOALOS, together with OHRLLS, have been engaged in various activities, such as briefings to LLDCs to provide information on UNCLOS and the importance of becoming party to it and expressed readiness of DOALOS to provide further support to LLDCs or others seeking to join UNCLOS.

Through written inputs, UN ECE informed on their contribution to the accelerated implementation of the VPoA. ECE announced that the GIS-based International Transport Infrastructure Observatory which it has been developing for several years will soon become

## Strengthening the working methods of the IACG

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, UN-OHRLLS introduced the agenda item, noting that the purpose is to kickstart a discussion within the IACG Submit the consolidated Roadmap to the LLDC Chair for consideration of the LLDC Group during the HLPF Sde Event on 9 July Invite all IACG organizations to the HLPF Sde Event on 9 July Prepare and share draft terms of reference for the IACG

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Annex II: Agenda

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

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9:00 9:20