

## **DRAFT Terms of Reference**

### **Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) National Focal Points network**

#### **Background**

Due to the lack of direct access to the sea the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are faced with challenges related to their geography that deprive them of direct access to seaborne trade, compounded by cumbersome transit and border procedures, and inadequate transport infrastructure of the coastal transit countries. LLDCs therefore face high trade costs that remain a major stumbling block for their integrating into the global economy and their overall development.

The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) was adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on LLDCs held in November

Development plan, the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant development frameworks at national level.

### **Scope and objectives**

The LLDCs' National Focal Points network will facilitate the strengthening of coherence and coordination of the implementation and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement at the national level. It will also foster peer-learning and exchange of best practices on LLDCs-related issues.

The overarching objective of NFPs is to strengthen coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on LLDCs-related issues and follow up of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks.

The LLDCs' National Focal Points network shall consist of LLDCs Government designated officials from the 32 LLDCs member states. The designated focal point will be an official who is involved in the localization of the VPoA, implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as well as their national implementation, monitoring and review.

### **Main Functions of NFPs**

1. Play an active role within and/or work actively with the national institutional setup responsible for implementation and follow up of the VPoA priorities and SDGs.
2. Contribute to coherent national, regional and global monitoring, including reporting frameworks, for the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global frameworks.
3. Keep abreast of programmes, projects and activities carried out by development partners, including the UN system, on the ground and identify potential areas for increased donor collaboration and coordination in supporting the implementation of the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks.
4. Participate in a forum for LLDCs NFPs and meet on a regular/predictable basis to: i) exchange information, share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming global and regional frameworks into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up, ii) network, and iii) better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models for implementing the VPoA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.
5. Support efforts to raise awareness about the VPoA at national level, in particular by ensuring that this programme of action is known and understood by relevant sectoral units of

continued buy-in and ownership of the framework. These efforts include the dissemination of knowledge materials produced by the office and other relevant stakeholders.

6. Strengthen country level coordination on the preparation of the national report on the implementation of the VPoA and other relevant

7. The LLDCs NFP network shall be guided by its programme of work and keep a public record of the proceedings of its meetings.