



Press Release



Senior UN official calls for greater support to landlocked developing countries

New York, 7 May 2014 - Strong regional and international support measures are vital if landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are to continue making in-roads in the fight against poverty, a high-ranking United Nations official said on Wednesday.

The call comes as preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries to be held in November in Vienna, Austria gathers momentum. At a press briefing today High Representative Gyan Chandra Acharya - who has been designated as the Secretary General of the global meeting - stressed the importance of high-level participation at the conference, “It is of critical importance that this event brings together landlocked developing countries, transit countries, development partners, the private sector and civil society in order to ensure a successful outcome which will support the efforts of these countries as they work towards sustainable economic and social development.”

The Director in the UN Office for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, has been designated as Executive Secretary with Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service, as Deputy Executive Secretary.

UN-OHRLLS has been designated as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparatory review process. Last year all three regional reviews (Euro-Asian, Africa, Latin America) were organized by the UN regional commissions in close collaboration with UN-OHRLLS. These meetings presented an opportunity for a frank assessment of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, a set of goals put in place in 2003 to tackle the particular challenges faced by these countries owing to a lack of direct access to the sea.

More than a dozen pre-conference events held since 2012 in several capitals across the world have focused on developmental issues of crucial importance to LLDCs, including international trade facilitation, aid for trade, infrastructure financing, the impact of climate change, desertification, information and communication development, and priorities for the development agenda of LLDCs.

Landlocked Developing Countries face significant challenges associated with their geographical location and in areas such as trade, transport and infrastructure. They are reliant on transit routes provided by neighbouring countries and often have to cover vast distances to facilitate import and export. There are 32 Landlocked Developing Countries, 16 of which are located in Africa, 10 in Asia, 4 in Europe and 2 in Latin America. Seventeen of these are also classified as Least Developed Countries by the United Nations.

UN-OHRLLS - The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Its role includes the support and coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, 2003 for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community.

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