



PRESS RELEASE

African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development endorse 10-year action plan for landlocked developing countries

Addis Ababa, 31 March 2015 – Senior African government officials meeting on Tuesday endorsed an ambitious 10-year action plan for the world's 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014–2024 (VPoA) had been formally adopted by Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries which was held in Austria in November 2014.

The African ministers were attending the two-day Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The programme of action is considered a holistic development agenda with time bound goals and specific objectives in six priorities including: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructural development and maintenance; international trade, and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation and means of implementation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the ministers stressed that the full and effective implementation of the VPoA will help to address the special development needs and challenges of the group of LLDCs in a more coherent manner and thus contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth. Half of the 32 LLDCs are located in Africa.

The ministers urged African LLDCs to mainstream the action plan into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation. They also called upon the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other regional and sub-regional organisations to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their work programmes in accordance with their respective mandates.

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[The Vienna Programme of Action](#)