



MEDIA ADVISORY

26 May 2015

Global partners convene High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Landlocked Developing Countries in Livingstone, Zambia

WHO

The Zambian Government together with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developing Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), development partners, and the private sector will hold a three-day High-Level Ministerial Meeting focusing on the special development challenges faced by the world's 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

WHAT

The meeting is a follow-up to the 2014 Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) that was held in Vienna, Austria, where UN Member States adopted the ambitious Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2014 – 2024 (VPoA).

The Livingstone Meeting is expected to:

- Review and identify opportunities and bottlenecks in landlocked developing countries in terms of implementation in the priority areas of the VPoA;
- Provide a platform for sharing of best practices, experiences and initiatives at the national, regional and global levels in the priority areas of the VPoA;
- Discuss and conceptualize the way forward in implementing the VPoA, including the implementation strategy, tools and indicators for measuring the progress in implementation of the VPoA
- Strengthen and forge partnerships and ownership of the VPoA at both regional and national levels

WHEN

2- 4 June, 2015

WHERE

Chrismar Hotel - Livingstone, Zambia

***** PRESS CONFERENCE *****

DATE: June 2

TIME: 11:30 am – 12: 30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

- **Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya**
United Nations Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- **Hon. Yamfwa Mukanga, MP**
Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: UN-OHRLLS Advocacy and Outreach Officer Mr. Ricardo Dunn – dunn@un.org and Communications Specialist Ms. Rekha Shrestha (Rekha.shrestha@one.un.org)

BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly on 12 December 2014 decided to endorse the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 and the Vienna Declaration in resolution 69/137. The Vienna Programme of Action is a holistic and results-oriented programme succeeding the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) as the development blueprint for LLDCs for the next decade.

It comprises of an overarching goal, six specific goals as well as time bound specific objectives in six priority areas.

The six priority areas are: 1) fundamental transit policy issues, 2) infrastructure development and maintenance, 3) international trade and trade facilitation, 4) regional integration and cooperation, 5) structural economic transformation and 6) means of implementation.

The overarching goal of the VPoA is to address the special development needs and challenges of LLDCs in a more coherent manner and thus contribute to an enhanced level of sustainable and inclusive growth and eradication of poverty for the more than 450 million people in the 32 LLDCs. The VPoA reflects a deeper understanding of the challenges that LLDCs face and calls for enhancing international trade performance, trade facilitation, productive capacities, economic diversification and value-addition, enhanced regional integration and cooperation, and collaboration with vibrant private sector based on expanded partnerships.

The adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action is reflective of the solidarity, understanding and spirit of cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders in supporting LLDCs to achieve sustainable development. The VPoA demonstrates the renewed and strengthened partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours and their development partners, while also calling for strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation and partnerships with private sector.

The successful implementation of this expanded Programme of Action will require not only renewed and strengthened partnerships between LLDCs, transit countries and development partners, but also enhanced support and partnership efforts with relevant international and regional organizations, between private and public sectors and stronger and widened North-South and South-South cooperation.