

Session 1

ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, is a global transformative development framework for the next 15 years. It presents an important opportunity for LLDCs and transit developing countries globally and in the Euro-Asia region to cooperate and enhance the implementation and achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting will focus on the SDGs that will be reviewed by the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) in 2017 which will be held from Monday, 10 July, to Wednesday, 19 July 2017 under the theme of the HLPF will be **"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world."**

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

- What are the major successes, challenges and lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- How can the LLDCs and transit countries foster cooperation to advance the implementation of the SDGs?
- What are some of the available examples that can be shared, strengthened or replicated?
- How can the different stakeholders (development partners, multilateral and regional development Banks, regional organizations, the UN, private sector) enhance their partnerships to support the LLDCs and transit countries to achieve the SDGs?
- What recommendations to support the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in LLDCs and transit countries can be suggested for submission to the upcoming HLPF?

THE SET OF GOALS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE HLPF IN DEPTH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

-  **GOAL 1**
End poverty in all its forms everywhere
-  **GOAL 2**
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable
-  **GOAL 3**
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
-  **GOAL 5**
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
-  **GOAL 9**
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable
-  **GOAL 14**
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable
-  **GOAL 17**
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The 2016 report of the Secretary General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals highlighted data on the performance of the 32 LLDCs on some of the indicators where data is available. The annex presents an analysis of the status of the 32 LLDCs on the 7 SDGs to be reviewed in the HLPF. It can be noted that while the LLDCs are making some progress on some of the SDGs, their progress is slow and they lag behind the averages of all the developing countries and the world. There is need to do more. This session will discuss how to foster cooperation between the LLDCs and transit countries so as to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. Regional cooperation plays a very important role. The session will also discuss the critical role of transport for the attainment of the SDGs in LLDCs. The session will make recommendations to be submitted to the HLPF.

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Annex: LLDCs AND THE SDGS BASED ON DATA FROM THE 2016 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On **SDG 1**, the population living below the poverty line (\$1.9 per day), in the 32 LLDCs, has gradually reduced during the past decades from 48.6% in 2002 to 30.5% in 2012. However the proportion of people living under poverty in LLDCs is still much higher when compared to the total average of all developing countries of 15.4% in 2012. There are large variations amongst the countries. In 9 LLDCs, half of the population lives below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day. Achieving SDG 1 in the LLDCs in the next 15 years will require greater efforts.

With regard to **SDG 2**, LLDCs are characterized by high prevalence of food insecurity and are exposed to higher and more volatile food prices. For instance, over the period 2000-2013, the FAO Food Price Index was 73 percent higher in LLDCs than in developing countries as a group. LLDCs remain vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which is aggravating desertification and land degradation. In addition, most agricultural land in LLDCs is arid and semi-arid, characterised by high variability in rainfall. These challenges have devastating consequences for the livelihoods of poor families and undermine LLDCs' efforts to achieve SDG 2 on ending hunger. The prevalence of undernourishment in LLDCs is estimated at 22.7% in 2014-16, and is 76 percent higher than the average of developing countries. More investment is needed, both public and private, from all partners to support the LLDCs to increase their agricultural productivity.

With regards to **SDG 3** on health, LLDCs have made some progress towards reducing under-five mortality rates from 139.7 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 67.9 in 2015. However, the current rate is more than 46% higher than the average for the developing world. The LLDCs made progress in reducing the HIV incidence rate from 2.13 per 1000 uninfected population in 2000 to 0.84 in 2015. The LLDCs have high rates of malaria incidence which is double the average of the developing world. Death rate due to road traffic injuries in terms of deaths per 100,000 population is also high in LLDCs estimated at 23.3 in 2013 compared to 19.3 for the total for developing regions and 17.4 for the world.

On **SDG 5** on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, the LLDCs have made progress on the related indicators over the period 2000 to 2015 in particular on women's representation in national parliaments and local governments which has grown from 7.8% in 2000 to 26% in 2016. Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were

married by age 18 estimated to be 35.4% in 2015 is high in LLDCs compared to the world average of 25.9% or average for all the developing countries of 27.4% indicating the need to address this challenge.

On **SDG 9**, the LLDCs and transit countries in corporation with their development partners continue to make efforts to expand and upgrade their road transport infrastructure and infrastructure at border crossing points. There is much more that needs to be done to promote multi-modal infrastructure connectivity between LLDCs and transit countries. There have been no significant changes between 2013 and 2014 in the data on railway infrastructure for the 13 LLDCs that have available data. In 2014 air passenger volume was extremely low, in LLDCs making up only 0.8% of the global total and similar patterns are found for freight volumes in air transport which averaged only 0.9% of the global total.

With regard to energy, the average proportion of population having access to modern energy in the LLDCs is 55%. However this data hides the disparities between countries; with 9 countries having reached universal access, while 8 countries are trailing behind others with an access rate lower than 20%. More than 300 million people in the LLDCs or two thirds of their total population rely on traditional use of biomass for cooking, underscoring the urgent need for improved access to clean and modern cooking energy. 29.2% in 2012. More efforts are needed to promote greater use of renewable energy sources and energy connectivity among and between LLDCs and transit countries.

The LLDCs continue to experience growth in information and communications technology (ICT) in particular mobile communications. By contrast, access to the internet, although increasing steadily, remained low in the majority of LLDCs, with an average 20 out of 100 people being internet users in 2014 compared to 22 out of 100 people in transit countries. This average also masks important disparities among the LLDCs. More efforts are required in order to promote open and affordable access to the internet for all and to address the digital divide.

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On industrialization, while the share of value added coming from the manufacturing sector increased between 2005 and 2015, throughout the world and in developing countries in particular, it dropped in LLDCs. Between 2000 and 2015, the share of manufacturing value added has declined from 11.8 to 10% of GDP. The declining share of value-added of manufacturing in the output of LLDCs is of particular concern given that manufacturing has historically been at the core of economic growth and transformation. The proportion of manufacturing employment to total employment in LLDCs has not improved significantly since 2000 (it was 6.8% in 2000 and was 6.2% in 2013). A move from traditional economic activities into higher value-added activities and high employment generating sectors such as manufacturing or modern services is crucial to support structural economic transformation.

LLDCs also rely heavily on a limited number of mineral resources and agricultural products for their exports. Primary commodities, including fuels accounted for 80% of LLDCs' merchandise exports in 2014, increasing from 67% in 2000. Such a heavy dependence on commodities makes LLDCs highly vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility.

On **SDG 14** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, no data was reflected on the progress that the LLDCs have made. Although LLDCs are not directly linked to the oceans and the seas due to their geographical location, they are greatly affected by the health of oceans. Furthermore the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) gives rights to the landlocked states to utilize the oceans, seas and marine resources and more than half of the 32 landlocked developing countries are currently State Parties to UNCLOS. The landlocked states also have the right to participate, on an equitable basis, in the exploitation of an appropriate part of the surplus of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of coastal States of the same sub-region or region, taking into account the relevant economic and geographical circumstances of all the States concerned. Considering the fact that the landlocked states have the right to access and to utilize ocean, seas and marine resources, the capacities of the LLDCs should be enhanced. They are faced with capacity challenges and their participation on issues relating to the Seas and Oceans has been quite limited. The limited participation in the activities relating to use of the oceans, seas and marine resources is attributed to limited resources, lack of awareness, as well as limited access to the

sea. There is therefore, the need to consider the special challenges that landlocked developing countries face when it comes to accessing and utilizing the common resources of the seas.

SDG17. In order to accelerate achievement of the SDGs, the means of implementation is critical. While the Vienna Programme of Action recognizes that the development of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself, it underscores the importance of strengthened and expanded partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours, their development partners and other stakeholders for the successful implementation of the VPoA. Efforts to enhance domestic resource mobilization should be strengthened. Mobilization of additional resources to support the SDGs is critical to complement the domestic efforts of the LLDCs. ODA is important. In 2014, net ODA to LLDCs decreased slightly by 1.1 per cent over 2013, from \$26.2 billion to \$25.9 billion. Enhanced flows of ODA including Aid for trade will have a significant impact towards meeting LLDCs' infrastructure development needs.

South-South and Triangular cooperation has great potential and should be increased. The contribution of the private sector towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in particular infrastructure development and maintenance, including through public-private partnerships (PPP) is crucial and needs to be enhanced. The role of multilateral and regional development banks, in providing financing as well as technical capacity is crucial. More is needed including in the form of dedicated infrastructure funding for the LLDCs and special instruments and vehicles that can help them de-risk investments, attract new finances including through blended finances. Important role of all the other partners including the UN, regional organisations and others is important and should be strengthened.