

PROPOSED SET OF INDICATORS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION (2014 – 2024)

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I. Background

In November 2014, the General Assembly convened the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in Vienna, Austria. The Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs for the decade 2014 to 2024 was adopted as the outcome of the Conference. The VPoA was formulated based on a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA)¹ that was adopted by the United Nations International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2003.

The VPoA is a holistic, ambitious and results-oriented programme with clear priorities and concrete timeframe that seeks to achieve rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth. It is a development blueprint, which ensures both economic and social progress among the estimated 440 million people living in LLDCs. Drawing upon the lessons learnt from the APoA and taking into consideration the emerging global challenges, the VPoA has a set of 6 priorities. Three of these priorities (fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance and; international trade and trade facilitation) though similar to the APoA, have been further reinforced and expanded. For example, infrastructure development and maintenance has been expanded to encompass energy and ICT infrastructure; the international trade and trade facilitation priority further seeks to increase value addition and manufactured component of LLDC exports.

The VPoA also incorporates additional priorities, namely: regional integration and cooperation and; structural economic transformation. These additional priorities provide a catalytic framework for LLDCs to among others, diversify their economies, increase participation in global trade, strengthen productive capacities and create an enabling environment for a more vibrant private sector engagement.

The last priority, means of Implementation, recognises the need for individual and concerted efforts by various partners towards the implementation of the VPoA. The identified partners include the LLDCs, transit countries, development partners through inter alia, ODA and Aid for Trade, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation actors, the UN system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Common Fund for Commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations and, the private sector. The VPoA invites partners to give priority to requests for technical assistance and capacity-building support from LLDCs in the implementation of the new Programme of Action.

In terms of sequencing and as illustrated in figure 1, the VPoA has one overarching goal, which informs the 6 specific goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are then operationalised through the 6 priorities. Excluding priorities 4 and 6, the other priorities have time-bound specific objectives that are implemented through identified actions for LLDCs, transit developing countries, and development partners, as appropriate. In sum, there are 21 specific objectives, 23 actions by LLDCs, 9 actions by transit developing countries, 25 joint actions by landlocked and transit developing countries and 30 actions by development partners.

¹ The APoA was the first PoA that focused on LLDCs. To date, there have been two United Nations conferences on LLDCs

Figure 1: Structure of the Vienna Programme of Action



II. Follow-up and Review

The VPoA emphasises the need for follow-up and review, which should be undertaken through existing intergovernmental processes, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). The VPoA points to the mandate of OHRLLS to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The current exercise responds to Paragraph 77 of the VPoA, which states, in part, the following:

“... The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the present Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates”,
Vienna Programme of Action (2014)

These indicators are critical for measuring progress in the implementation of the VPoA and based on respective commitments by LLDCs, transit developing countries and development partners. Indicators will lead to an on-going process of identifying challenges and incorporating lessons learnt into future actions. This process will also facilitate cross-learning through shared experiences.

In view of the above, OHRLLS in consultation with other UN and international organizations identified and discussed within the context of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG), a list of indicators for the follow-up and review of the VPoA. One of the recommendations of the IACG was the need, where possible, to have coherence between the VPoA and SDG indicators. This list of indicators to track progress was also proposed and discussed at the inter-governmental level, during the High-Level Follow-up Ministerial Meeting to the Vienna Conference held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015.

This document serves as a final output based on discussions on comments and proposals of the inter-agency group and Member States. It presents a list of proposed indicators for the VPoA taking into consideration the following: the overall objective; specific objectives for priorities 1, 2, 3 and 5; in the case of priority 4, the indicators are largely drawn from the actions by LLDCs while for priority 6, indicators are developed from the narrative.

III. Criteria for selection of the Indicators

In selecting the proposed indicators, a number of related and mutually reinforcing criteria were used. One criterion was that of ensuring the selected indicators are suitable for assessing the identified objectives of the VPoA. The selected indicators are also simple to interpret and with clear policy relevance. In most instances, well-established indicators were selected from other global monitoring processes, including the SDGs and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Another criterion used is that of reliability of data. To this effect, the indicators are mostly constructed from established sources such as, the World Bank, UN datasets including from UNSTATS, UNCTAD, SDG indicators database etc. The advantages of such data sources include the following: they ensure strong collaboration between the institutions and countries that collect the data; they are anchored on broad international consensus on their measurement and; they are based on international standards, recommendations, and best practices to facilitate spatial and temporal comparisons offering an opportunity of setting a clear baseline. In cases where well-established data sources may be unavailable, especially relating to the new indicators, the baseline will be set within the first two years of implementing the VPoA.

A related criterion, periodicity, was also utilised. A number of indicators are available on a regular basis. In some instances, indicators are collected on a sporadic basis. Some indicators, particularly those related to transit policies, are anecdotal and information will be collected mainly from country and regional reports. The rationale for this information is that data availability will help guide efforts to streamline the current list into a more succinct one, if so decided.

The last criterion is that the selected indicators capture not only outcomes and outputs but also inputs. This facilitates the assessment efforts deployed by various stakeholders in leaving up to their respective commitments.

Summary of proposed indicators and next steps

The report proposes a total of 102 quantitative indicators. These quantitative indicators are expressed mainly as values, growth rates, shares and percentages. Qualitative indicators are also used in cases where quantitatively measured indicators may not adequately provide adequate information and where there are no clear internationally agreed quantitative indicators. The report contains a total of 9 qualitative indicators.

As some objectives in the VPoA converge, in some instances, the same indicators are used to assess objectives in other priority areas. It is for this reason that a column entitled, '*other priorities indicator applies to*' is included.

The proposed indicators are summarized in the tables below and are listed by priority. Table 1 lists broad indicators to monitor the programme of action.

The list of indicators suggested in this document is not exhaustive. Hence, countries and other partners are encouraged to expand their national level monitoring by adding complementary indicators that may be deemed appropriate for assessing the implementation of VPoA.

The list of indicators was revised in August 2017, in order to streamline the list in view of data availability and align it with the SDG indicators, where necessary.

IV. Indicators: Vienna Programme of Action

Table 0: Broad VPoA indicators

	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data source	Other priorities indicator applies to
Broad indicators to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty.	GDP (constant 2005 US\$)	UNSD	
	GDP growth (annual %)	Based on UNSD data	
	GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2010 US\$)	WDI, World Bank	
	Proportion of population below the international poverty line	WDI, World Bank	
	Human Development Index	UNDP HDI report	
	Employment-to-population ratio	ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market	
	Unemployment rate	UN SDG indicators database (8.5.2)	
	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments	UN SDG indicators database (5.5.1)	
	Share of LLDCs' exports in global trade	UNCTAD	3
	Exports within the region as share of total exports	Estimated from ITC data	4
	Net ODA received (constant US\$)	OECD	6
	Inward foreign direct investment flows (current US\$)	UNCTAD	6
	Aid for trade disbursements (constant US\$)	OECD	6
	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	UN SDG indicators database (15.1.1)	
Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	UN SDG indicators database (15.3.1)		

Table 1: Indicators for Priority 1 – Fundamental transit policy issues

Specific Objectives	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
a) Reduce travel time along corridors with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move 300-400 kilometres per 24 hours	Road Corridor ² Speed ³ with delays (km/hr)	Regional Commissions, RECs, country reports & World Bank,	
	Road Corridor Speed without delays (km/hr)	Regional Commissions, RECs, country reports & World Bank,	
	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	UN SDG indicators database (9.1.1)	
b) Significantly reduce the time spent at land borders	Implementation of single-stop inspections (Qualitative ⁴)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	3, 4
	Implementation of common administrative documents for customs clearance (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	3, 4
	Other procedures implemented to simplify border crossing and freedom of transit (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	4
	CPIA transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high) ⁵	WDI, World Bank	
	No. of ratifications, accessions, signatories to transport agreements and/ or regulations by LLDCs	UNECE & UN Treaties, WTO	4
	No. of ratifications, accessions, signatories to transport agreements and/ or regulations by main transit countries	UNECE & UN Treaties, WTO	4
c) Significantly improve intermodal connectivity with the aim of ensuring	Cargo dwell time for transit cargo in transit countries	Country reports, corridor authorities & World Bank	3
	Dwell time at border crossing between LLDCs and transit countries	Country reports, corridor authorities & World Bank	

² Analysis should state whether the data on road corridor is based on the main travel route to reach the seaport.

³ Speed should be standardised across countries

⁴ Qualitative implies that information is qualitative in nature

⁵ CPIA stands for Country Policy and Institutional Assessment

efficient transfers from rail to road and vice versa and from port to rail and/or road and vice versa	Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and its sub-components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efficiency of the clearance process - Quality of trade and transport related infrastructure - Competence and quality of logistics services - Ability to track and trace consignments) 	WDI, World Bank	
	Modal split in imports and exports for LLDCs and transit countries	ECLAC, National Statistics on Foreign Trade and Transport	
	Container port throughput for transit developing countries (<i>Port container traffic measures the flow of containers from land to sea transport modes., and vice versa, in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a standard-size container</i>)	WDI, World Bank	

Table 2: Indicators for Priority 2 – Infrastructure development and maintenance

Specific Objectives	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
Transport Infrastructure			
a) Significantly increase the quality of roads, including increasing the share of paved roads, by nationally appropriate standards	Roads, total network (Kms)	International Road Federation ⁶ , country and regional reports ⁷	
	Roads, paved (% of total roads)	International Road Federation, country and regional reports	
	Road density (km of road per 100 sq. km of land area)	International Road Federation	
	Passenger and freight volumes, by road transport	UN SDG indicators database (9.1.2)	
b) Expand and upgrade the railway infrastructure in LLDCs, where applicable	Rail lines, total route (km)	WDI, World Bank	
	Passenger and freight volumes, by rail transport	UN SDG indicators database (9.1.2)	
c) Complete missing links in the regional road and railway transit transport networks	Completion of missing links	Development Banks, UNESCAP, UNECA and UNECLAC, AU reports	
Other relevant transport indicators	Air transport, registered carrier departures	WDI, World Bank	
	Passenger and freight volumes, by air transport	UN SDG indicators database (9.1.2)	
	Km of inland waterways effectively used for navigation	National and regional reports	
	Recurrent spending on infrastructure (% of GDP) ⁸	Country & regional reports	
	Total official international support to infrastructure	UN SDG indicators database (9.a.1)	
	Support towards infrastructure development by multilateral and regional development banks (Qualitative)	Multilateral agencies, Country & regional reports	
Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure			
d) Expand and upgrade, as appropriate, infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy	Electric power consumption (kWh per capita)	WDI, World Bank	
	Proportion of population with access to electricity	UN SDG indicators database (7.1.1)	

⁶ Data is not free

⁷ Standardise measurements across countries if data source is from national or regional reports

⁸ Specify whether public/ private spending, check methodology and source of information

services in rural and urban areas	Number of power outages in firms a typical month	World Bank enterprise surveys	
	Share (%) of renewable energy in total final energy consumption (TFEC)	UN SDG indicators database (7.2.1)	
	Investment in energy with private participation (current us\$)	WDI, World Bank	
e) All LLDCs should make broadband policy universal	Established policy on broadband	Broadband Commission	
f) Promote open and affordable access to Internet for all	Internet users per 100 people	International Telecommunication Union, UN SDG indicators database (17.8.1)	
	Fixed broadband Internet subscriptions (per 100 people)	International Telecommunication Union, UN SDG indicators database (17.6.2)	
g) LLDCs should actively engage to address the digital divide	Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 people	International Telecommunication Union	

Table 3: Indicators for Priority 3 – International trade and trade facilitation

Specific Objectives	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
International Trade			
a) Significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports;	Merchandise exports (US Dollars)	UNCTAD	
	Merchandise imports (US Dollars)	UNCTAD	
	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank, UNCTAD	
	Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank, UNCTAD	
	Total trade (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank, UNCTAD	
	Share of LLDCs' exports in global trade	UNCTAD	Broad ind.
	Share of LLDCs' imports in global trade	UNCTAD	
b) Significantly increase the value added and manufactured component, as appropriate, of the exports of landlocked developing countries, with the objective of substantially diversifying their markets and products	Same as table 5, subsection (a) and (b)		
c) Strengthen economic and financial ties between landlocked developing countries and other countries in the same region so as to gradually and consistently increase the share of landlocked developing countries in intraregional trade	Participation in regional trade agreements	WTO, ITC	4
	Exports within the region as share of total exports	Based on ITC data	Broad ind. & 4
	Imports within the region as share of total imports	Based on ITC data	4
Trade Facilitation			
d) Significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures with the aim of reducing port and border delays	Days to clear direct exports through customs	World Bank, Enterprise Surveys	
	Days to clear imports from customs	World Bank, Enterprise Surveys	
	Documents to import (number)	World Bank, doing business	
	Documents to export (number)	World Bank, doing business	
	Time to import (days)	World Bank, doing business	
	Time to export (days)	World Bank, doing business	
	Implementation of single-stop inspections (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	1, 4
	Implementation of common administrative documents for customs clearance (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	1, 4

	Publication of average release time	WCO Time Release Study	
	No. of LLDCs & transit dev. countries with trade facilitation bodies/ committees	UNCTAD	
e) Improve transit facilities and their efficiency with the aim of reducing transaction costs	Cost of importing a standardised container of cargo (US\$)	WDI, World Bank	
	Cost of exporting a standardised container of cargo (US\$)	WDI, World Bank	
f) Ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation			

Table 4: Indicators for Priority 4 – Regional integration and cooperation

Actions	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
a) Promote regional integration	Exports within the region as share of total exports	Based on ITC data	Broad ind. & 3
	Imports within the region as share of total imports	Based on ITC data	3
	No. of ratifications, accessions, definite signatories to regional transport agreements and/ or regulations	UNESCAP, UNECA and UNECLAC, AU & Country reports	1
	Regional infrastructure (road and rail) projects (Qualitative)	Development Banks, UNESCAP, UNECA and UNECLAC, AU & Country reports	
b) Promote harmonization of regional policies	Implementation of single-stop inspections (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	1, 3
	Implementation of common administrative documents for customs clearance (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports, WTO & World Bank	1, 3
	Other procedures implemented to simplify border crossing and freedom of transit (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports & World Bank	1
c) Strengthen participation of LLDCs in bilateral and regional integration frameworks	Participation in regional trade agreements	WTO, ITC	3
	Participation in regional economic communities (Qualitative)	RECs	

Table 5: Indicators for Priority 5 – Structural economic transformation

Specific Objectives	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
a) Increase value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, with the aim of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development	Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank, UN SDG indicators database (9.2.1)	
	Manufacturing value added per capita	UN SDG indicators database (9.2.1)	
	Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Agriculture productivity ⁹	WDI, World Bank	
	Exports of high technological content as proportion of manufactured exports	WDI, World Bank	
	Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Percent of firms identifying access to finance as a major constraint	WDI, World Bank	
b) Increase economic and export diversification	Primary commodities, precious stones and non-monetary gold (% of total exports)	UNCTAD	
	Manufactured goods (% of total exports)	UNCTAD	
	Concentration index	UNCTAD	
	Diversification Index	UNCTAD	
	UNIDO's competitive industrial performance index	UNIDO	
c) Promote service-based growth, including from tourism, with a view to increasing its contribution to the national economy	Trade in services (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Transport services (% of commercial service exports)	WDI, World Bank	
	Tourist arrivals at national borders (thousands)	World Tourism Organization	
	Research and development expenditure (% of GDP)	UN SDG indicators database (9.5.1)	

⁹ Measured by value added per worker relative to average value added of agriculture (% of GDP)

Table 6: Indicators for Priority 6 – Means of implementation

Actions	Proposed indicator(s) to monitor progress	Potential data sources	Other priorities indicator applies to
a) LLDCs and transit countries to mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the present Programme of Action	Gross domestic investment (% of GDP) ¹⁰	WDI, World Bank	
	Gross domestic savings (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Government revenue, excluding grants (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank	
	Migrants' Remittances (US\$)	WDI, World Bank, UN SDG indicators database (17.3.2)	
	Migrants' Remittances (% of GDP)	WDI, World Bank, UN SDG indicators database (17.3.2)	
b) Development partners encouraged to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the present Programme of Action.	Total resource flows for development (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)	UN SDG indicators database (10.b.1)	
	Share of ODA to productive sectors	OECD	
	Share of ODA towards economic infrastructure	OECD	
	Aid for Trade to LLDCs (% of total aid)	OECD	
	Aid for Trade commitments (constant US\$)	OECD, UN SDG indicators database (8.a.1)	
	Aid for Trade disbursements (constant US\$)	OECD, UN SDG indicators database (8.a.1)	Broad ind.
c) Private Sector Investment	Number of initiatives with private sector collaboration in LLDCs (Qualitative)	Country, regional and sub-regional reports	
	No. of policy measures on investment promotion/ facilitation in LLDCs	UNCTADs' Investment Policy Monitor publication	
	Inward foreign direct investment flows (current US\$)	UNCTAD	Broad ind.
	Inward foreign direct investment flows (% of GDP)	UNCTAD	

¹⁰ It is measured by Gross capital formation, which consists of additions to the fixed assets (land improvements such as drainages, construction of roads, railways, schools, etc) of the economy and net changes in the level of inventories (stocks of goods held by firms to meet temporary or unexpected fluctuations in production or sales).

d) Development partners should fulfil existing official development assistance commitments	Net ODA received (constant US\$)	OECD	Broad ind.
	Net ODA received (% of GNI)	WDI, World Bank	
	Net ODA to LLDCs (as % of total ODA)	OECD	
Other relevant MOI indicators	Initiatives on South-South and Triangular collaboration by LLDCs (Qualitative)	Country reports, regional reports, UNDP, etc	
	Initiatives undertaken by international organizations to support LLDCs in implementing the VPOA (Qualitative)	Reports from Member States, UN agencies, World Bank, regional development banks, WTO, WCO, CFC, RECs and other relevant regional and subregional organizations	
	Total external debt stock (percentage of gross national income)	World Bank	
	Total debt service (percentage of exports of goods, services and primary income)	World Bank,	
	Level of risk of debt distress	List of LIC Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) for Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust - PRGT-eligible countries, IMF	
	No. of UN agencies that are implementing VPoA related activities	Agency reports	
	No. of LLDCs that have integrated the VPoA into their national development plans	Country reports	