



Ambassadorial Retreat on the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

**HNA Palisades Premier Conference Center, Palisades, New York
7-8 May 2019**

Programme

| Tuesday, 7 May 2019 | |
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| 17:30 | Departure from UN Headquarters |
| 20:00 | Working Dinner welcoming remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General, and High Representative • H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and Grenadines • Statement of H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be delivered by Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Senior Adviser, Office of the President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly • H.E. Mr. Julio Cesar Arriola Ramirez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the UN, Chair of the LLDC Group • Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator, Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme |
| Wednesday, 8 May 2019 | |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Opening session <i>Fostering Synergies between the VPoA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General, and High Representative • H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and Grenadines |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Julio Cesar Arriola Ramirez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the UN, Chair of the LLDC Group • H.E. Ms. Doma Tshering, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York and Co-Facilitator for the Mid Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action |
| 09:30 - 11:15 | <p><i>The Review of the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action – 2014 to 2019: Key achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and Implications for outcome document</i></p> <p>Session 1a. Overview presentation on the substantive outcomes of the preparatory process of the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action</p> <p>➤ Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief of Policy Development, Coordination, and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>Session 1b. International Trade and Trade Facilitation</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of International Trade and Trade Facilitation and the efforts to promote synergies with the SDGs. It will identify the achievements, some of the key challenges and lessons learnt and implications for outcome document. Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements from the first five years of implementation of these VPoA priority areas?</i> • <i>What are the challenges faced by the LLDCs, key constraints and lessons learnt?</i> • <i>What are the key actions and recommendations that can be included in the outcome document?</i> <p>➤ Ms. Nnana Mmanyabela Pheto, Economic Affairs Officer UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>➤ Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief of the UNCTAD New York Office</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the outcome document</i></p> |
| 11:15 - 11:30 | Coffee Break |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | <p><i>The Review of the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action – 2014 to 2019: Key achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and Implications for outcome document</i></p> <p>Session 2. Fundamental Transit Policy Issues, Infrastructure Development and Maintenance, and Regional Integration</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of the implementation of the VPoA on Fundamental Transit Policy Issues, Infrastructure Development and Maintenance, and Regional Integration and the efforts to promote synergies with the SDGs. It will identify the achievements, some of the key challenges and lessons learnt and implications for outcome document. Guiding questions:</i></p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key achievements from the first five years of implementation of the VPoA on Fundamental Transit Policy Issues, Infrastructure Development and Maintenance, and Regional Integration?</i> • <i>What are the challenges, key constraints and lessons learnt?</i> • <i>What are the key actions and recommendations that can be included in the outcome document?</i> <p>➤ Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>➤ Ms. Nancy Vandycke, Lead Economist and Program Manager, Sustainable Mobility for All Initiative, World Bank Group</p> <p>➤ Mr. Luigi Santosuosso, Senior Legal Officer, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs</p> <p>➤ Ms. Kadiatou Sall-Beye, Project Officer, LDCs International Telecommunication Union Liaison Office to the United Nations</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the outcome document</i></p> |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch break |
| 14:30 – 16:30 | <p><i>Session 3. Fostering Structural Economic Transformation of LLDCs, Enhancing Means of Implementation and Effective monitoring, review and follow-up</i></p> <p><i>This session will review the progress made on Structural Transformation of LLDCs' economies and means of implementation accorded to LLDCs for the implementation of the VPoA and the SDGs, identify key challenges and lessons learnt and implications for outcome document. The session will also discuss the emerging issues that have been experienced during the implementation of the VPoA and explore how these can be addressed in the remaining 5 years. The session will also review how to foster effective monitoring and follow-up. Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the achievements on means of implementation to the LLDCs, the challenges, and the key actions and recommendations that can be included in the outcome document?</i> • <i>What are the key emerging issues from the first five years of implementation of the VPoA and how can they be addressed?</i> • <i>How can monitoring and follow-up of the VPoA be further improved and integrated with the SDGs.</i> • <i>How can the UN development system better support the LLDCs?</i> <p>➤ Ms. Dagmar Hertova, Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS</p> <p>➤ Mr. Hamid Rashid, Chief, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, DESA</p> <p>➤ Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of UNCCD Liaison Office in New York</p> <p>➤ Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the New York Liaison Office of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>➤ Ms. Eunice Kamwendo, Strategic Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP</p> <p>➤ Mr. Manuel Mattiat, Programme Officer, UNIDO</p> |

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| | <i>Interactive discussion on the possible elements for the outcome document</i> |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | Coffee Break |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | <p><i>Conclusions, way forward and closing remarks</i> <i>This session will highlight the key messages that came out of the discussions on the possible elements of the outcome document for the Midterm Review of the VPoA, the way forward and closing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu Under Secretary-General, and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States • H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN, New York and Co-Facilitator for the Mid Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action |
| 17:30 | Departure from HNA Palisades Premier Conference Center, Palisades, New York |