

**Ulaanbaatar Call for Enhanced Transit Transport Corridor Development
30 October 2019, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Senior representatives and participants from LLDCs, transit developing countries, development partners, United Nations, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, regional development banks, think tanks, private sector and other stakeholders met at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 29 and 30 October 2019, and held deliberations in the Meeting on Best Practices in Corridor Development and Management organized by the Government of Mongolia in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developing Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

In view of the discussions held, we propose the following recommendations to enhance corridor development and accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries:

1. Welcome the efforts of LLDCs and transit countries to develop and operationalize international transit transport corridors in order to improve their connectivity, boost trade potential and to achieve the sustainable development goals;
2. Stress that LLDCs and transit countries should consider promoting the corridor approach to facilitate faster, smoother and more efficient transit, improve cross-border transport infrastructure and enhance regional connectivity;
3. Underscore the need to transform transit transport corridors into economic corridors that spur economic and industrial activity of the region and have the potential to create investment opportunities, enhance regional connectivity and facilitate regional trade and investment;
4. Emphasize the need for LLDCs and transit countries to harmonize and improve transport (road, rail, waterways, pipelines), sea-ports, inland ports, logistics centres and border-crossing infrastructure and facilities and services along the international transit transport corridors in order to improve efficiency, and in this regard LLDCs and transit countries should endeavor harmonize domestic policies, standards and procedures and regulations for transit such as visa requirements for truck drivers, vehicle insurance, transit charges and axle load limits or non-tariff barriers;
5. Underscore the importance of establishing compatible ICT systems to support movement of goods and people such as Single Windows, OSBPs, electronic data exchange, digitalization of processes, informational portals and others;
6. Stress the need for transit transport corridors to encompass safety and security, technical standards and interoperability and ease of movement across borders;
7. Encourage LLDCs and transit developing countries to consider establishing or strengthening corridor coordination platforms, management mechanisms and frameworks, such as corridor management organizations and committees;

8. Encourage LLDCs and transit countries to enter into transit transport and corridor agreements at bilateral and regional level, in addition to global conventions on transit and transport, including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; and in this regards invite all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation;
9. Note that transit and corridor agreements should include provisions for coordinated planning and development of infrastructure, trade and transport facilitation issues, transport logistics monitoring, stakeholder coordination, capacity building and where appropriate establishment of corridor institutional framework and governance structure;
10. Emphasize that corridor partner states should sustain their cooperation and agreements governing corridors;
11. Emphasize the importance of institutions to facilitate the process of corridor development such as the Mongolia Investment Research Center that is supporting development of Mongolia-China-Russia economic corridor;
12. Underscores the need to mobilize, as appropriate, additional financial resources for rehabilitation or development of resilient corridor transport infrastructure and services, including through the promotion of public-private-partnerships, leveraging of private investments, co-financing and increased private sector participation so as to achieve inclusive and sustainable development;
13. Call on the UN system and other relevant international and regional organizations to provide policy, analytical and technical support towards the development, functioning and management of corridors and to facilitate greater sharing of experiences within and between regions;
14. Note the dearth in readily available reliable and regular data to inform policy and monitor corridor performance and call on development partners to provide corridor member states and corridor management institutions with capacity building support to enhance regular collection and publication of key corridor performance data to support the effective monitoring and evaluation of the corridors and further encourage strengthening or establishment of observatories;
15. Request UN system organizations, international, and regional and sub-regional organizations attending the meeting in particular UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD, UNECA, ESCAP, UNECE, European Union, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, EBRD, IRU, International Think Tank for LLDCs and others to continue providing financial and technical assistance to landlocked developing countries and transit countries on corridor development and management and to undertake comprehensive research evaluating the benefits of corridors for LLDCs, or evaluation of efficiency of corridor governance structures to fill the knowledge gap;
16. Further request all regional and sub-regional corridor organizations to actively participate in corridor development and management;

17. Call on international financing institutions, regional development banks, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector and international organizations to prioritize access and increase their funding to LLDCs and transit developing countries towards transit transport corridor development and management including by providing timely, predictable and sustained financial resources and technical support at the national, regional, inter-regional and international levels;
18. Request international financial institutions, UN system and international and regional organizations to provide technical support to LLDCs to enable them to formulate and implement bankable corridor infrastructure development projects more effectively and efficiently including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management;
19. Call for establishment of dedicated corridor development and management funds that countries can access and can be regional or and global;
20. Strengthen corridor management institutions to enhance cooperation and coordination along corridor routes, and promote information sharing;
21. Request international and regional organizations to provide technical support to LLDCs and transit countries to ensure that corridors are sustainable;
22. Stress that it is important for LLDCs and transit developing countries to be incorporated in the advancement of regional initiatives and receive the necessary support.

Acknowledgment

The Meeting expressed profound appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for generously hosting the meeting. The Meeting expressed gratitude to the substantive support of UN-OHRLLS and financial contribution by the Russian Federation. The Meeting also appreciated the active participation and substantive contributions by LLDCs, transit developing countries, development partners, UN system organizations, multi-lateral and regional development banks, other international and regional organizations, development partners, the private sector, think tanks and other stakeholders.