



MIDTERM REVIEW
VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
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Vienna Programme of Action and Trade Facilitation Agreement

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Enhancing the Trade Potential of LLDCs

- **Trade** is an important means to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Unique Situation of LLDCs** – remoteness from international markets, lack of direct access to the sea, delays at borders, additional border crossings, high trade costs.
- **Enhanced Transit** at the borders and between borders is critical – win win for all LLDCs and transit countries.
- Involves both **software and hardware** issues.



The Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA)



- ❖ Outcome of 2nd UN Conference on LLDCs
- ❖ 6 priority areas:
 - 1. Fundamental Transit Policy**
 - 2. Infrastructure Development & Maintenance**
 - 3. International trade & trade facilitation**
 - 4. Regional Integration & Cooperation**
 - 5. Structural Economic Transformation**
 - 6. Means of Implementation**
- ❖ Seeks to reduce poverty, build resilience, address inequality.
- ❖ Aims to transform Landlocked countries to Land-linked economies



Links between VPoA and TFA

Priority 1: Transit Policy Issues

- Free, faster movement of goods along corridors, border points and ports.
- Harmonize, simplify, standardize rules, regulations and documents.

Priority 3b: Trade Facilitation

- Significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures;
- Improve transit facilities and their efficiency;
- Implement TF initiatives including WTO TFA

Priority 4: Regional Integration and Cooperation

- Deepen regional integration and cooperation – trade, transport, ICT, energy and harmonize regional policies
- Partners to support integration efforts, regional infrastructure development and sharing of best practices

Priority 6: Means of Implementation

- Enhance Domestic resource mobilization, Aid for Trade and ODA, technical and financial support
- UN System and International, regional Organizations



Accelerated Implementation of TFA Means Progress on VPoA

- TFA implementation - reduce trade costs
- TFA implementation - reduce import and export times
- TFA implementation - Export diversification, Enhanced participation in GVCs, Increased participation of SMEs in international trade, Greater customs collection, Lower incidence of corruption
- **OVERALL Improved transit and trade potential of LLDCs**
- **Means greater progress on VPoA and towards the SDGs**



High lights-Midterm Review of the VPoA 5-6 December 2019 in New York

- Significant efforts by LLDCs and transit countries to implement the WTO TFA including through the establishment of: National Trade Facilitation Committee, single window, one-stop-border Posts and Trade Information Portals
- Increased LLDCs' participation in regional and sub-regional trade, transport and transit facilitation agreements
- Increased efforts to enhance infrastructure connectivity, and facilitate movement of cargo across borders.
- Corridor approach important
- **Key challenges:**
- Lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints (human capital, infrastructure, ICT, energy)
- Lack of reliable data to inform policy, monitor and ensure follow-up
- Smooth coordination of all relevant stakeholders



Way Forward

- Rapid Implementation of the WTO TFA, regional and national trade facilitation plans crucial
- Enhanced capacity building and technical
- Increased cooperation between LLDCs & transit countries necessary - hard and soft infrastructure.
- Resource mobilization from all sources
- Sharing of experiences



Thank You

Find out more on the midterm review
of the Vienna Programme of Action
to be held on 5 and 6 December at
UNHQ at

www.ildc2conference.org/mtr