



Expert Group Meeting
for the Preparatory Session of the Midterm Review of
Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries
for the Decade 2014-2024

Almaty, Kazakhstan
18-19 September 2018

Venue: The Dom Priyomov Convention Centre,
Worldhotel Saltanat
164 Nazarbayev Avenue
050021 Almaty

Concept Note and Programme

Vienna Programme of Action

The Vienna Programme of Action was adopted in November 2014 during the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. It is the principal programme of the United Nations that addresses issues related to development of states that lack direct access to the sea. This geographical constraint impedes their ability for international economic interaction and consequently makes development a more strenuous process. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action “is 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”.

Taking into the consideration the particular predicaments of landlocked developing countries, of which there are 12 in Asia and the Pacific, the Vienna Programme of Action identifies several priorities of action. These include: fundamental transit policy issues (priority 1); infrastructure development and maintenance (priority 2), which includes transport infrastructure (priority 2a) and energy and communications technology infrastructure (priority 2b); international trade (priority 3a) and trade facilitation (priority 3b); regional integration and cooperation (priority 4); and structural economic transformation (priority 5). The final priority (number 6) refers to means of implementation.

Midterm Review

Through the adoption of Resolution A/RES/72/232, “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”, the General Assembly has decided to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in 2019, to assess progress made in its implementation. As highlighted in Resolution A/C.2//72/L.62, this high-level midterm review is to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings. This preparatory meeting will be preceded by an expert group meeting aimed at discussing the progress made, contributing to the preparation of the Asia-Pacific regional midterm review and addressing the challenges related to VPoA implementation.

UNESCAP, UNCTAD and UNECE therefore organize a 2-day expert group meeting, which will discuss the status of implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action in Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries and provide sectoral capacity building for Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries. The outcome of the meeting in the form of assessment of the progress made and policy recommendations for action at national, regional and global levels will feed into the Mid-term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Tentative Programme:

	DAY 1
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-10:00	Opening Session Introductory remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNESCAP• UNCTAD• UNECE• OHRLLS [tbc]
<u>Session 1:</u> 10:00-11:30	Fundamental Transit Policy Issues and Transport Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction by ESCAP• Presentations by AP LLDCs’ representatives• Discussion and Conclusions
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
<u>Session 2:</u> 11:45-13:15	Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction by UNECE• Presentations by AP LLDCs’ representatives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and Conclusions
13:15-14:15	Lunch
<u>Session 3:</u> 14:15-15:45	International Trade and Trade Facilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by UNCTAD • Presentations by AP LLDCs' representatives • Discussion and Conclusions
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break
<u>Session 4:</u> 16:00-17:30	Regional integration and cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by UNECE • Presentations by AP LLDCs' representatives • Discussion and Conclusions
18:00-20:00	Reception hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan [tbc]
	DAY 2
<u>Session 5:</u> 9:00-10:30	Structural economic transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by UNCTAD • Presentations by AP LLDCs' representatives • Discussion and Conclusions
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
<u>Session 6:</u> 10:45-12:15	Means of implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by ESCAP or OHRLLS [tbc] • Presentations by AP LLDCs' representatives • Discussion and Conclusions
12:15-13:00	Closing Session