

High-Level Private Sector Side Event

*on the occasion of the First Preparatory Committee Meeting of Comprehensive 10 Year Review
Conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action*

Creating Enabling Environments for Sustainable Investments in Landlocked Developing Countries

12 June 2014
UN Headquarters
New York, NY

Concept Note

Background

The Almaty Programme of Action was adopted in 2003 as the United Nations' response to the growing recognition by the international community of the special needs and challenges faced by Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in achieving their development goals. The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/68/270 decided to hold the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna, Austria on 3 – 5 November 2014, as a comprehensive ten-year review of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

The Conference will thoroughly assess the status of the implementation of the Almaty Programme under each of its five priority areas; share best practices and lessons learnt and identify obstacles faced as well as new opportunities. Participants will ultimately agree on a new programme of action aimed at establishing efficient transit systems while also focusing on the structural transformation and economic diversification to ensure the effective participation of LLDCs in the international trading system as well as their sustainable development.

Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, additional border crossings, cumbersome transit procedures, inefficient logistics systems, weak institutions and poor infrastructure mean that the 32 LLDCs incur substantially higher transport and trade transaction costs when compared to coastal countries. Furthermore, the lack of structural change, the continued dependence on a narrow range of commodity exports and the slow rate of productivity growth are all factors that have kept LLDC economies from attaining sustainable growth and hence should be one of the key focus areas of the next development decade.

The international community has grown to recognize that the private sector can be a crucial driver of development and wealth creation by providing employment, income, products and services. In this view, the creation of an enabling environment is an important pre-requisite for stimulating private sector participation. Equally important is the common understanding that businesses engage in sustainable investments that can contribute to the overall sustainable development goals of the host countries. An ongoing dialogue between public and private sectors is crucial to ensure clear communication for prospective partnerships and investments.

The effective contribution and active engagement of private sector in the preparations for the Conference will be a key indicator of its success. As such, the private sector track for the Second UN Conference on LLDCs has been set up to involve and engage private sector representatives during all

stages of the preparatory process and the Conference itself. The private sector track will aim to help identify concrete, action-oriented proposals addressing LLDC-specific problems and challenges in the areas of trade and trade facilitation, transport, investment and business development. The views and proposals from the private sector will contribute to the formulation of innovative strategies and policy recommendations that will form the new development framework to be adopted at the Conference by the UN Member States. A Private Sector Steering Committee was established in July 2013 consisting of over 15 members from landlocked and transit countries as well as UN and other international organizations.

Objective

As part of the activities surrounding the Private Sector Track, a high-level private sector side event is being organized during the first Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference. The event will bring together government representatives from LLDCs, transit countries, donor countries, the UN system, and the Private Sector Steering Committee to exchange views on the theme of *Creating Enabling Environments for Sustainable Investments in Landlocked Developing Countries*. The side event will provide an opportunity for a dialogue between member states, private sector, civil society representatives and international organizations on how to create the necessary conditions to further enhance the role of the private sector, ensure sustainable investments, and identify which sectors of business can contribute to in the broader objective of sustainable development in landlocked developing countries.

Expected Outcome

This event is happening on the side lines of the First Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the ideas discussed will provide inputs toward the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing countries.

Contacts

- UN-OHRLLS
Ms. Esther Haerim Heo
Associate Expert
S-3244, 405 East 42nd St. New York, NY, 10017
Tel: 212 963 0115 Fax: 917 367 1337 Email: heoe@un.org
- International Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Lea Felluss
Special Assistant to the Permanent Representative
1212 Avenue of the Americas, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10036
Tel: +1 212 703 5091, Fax: +1 212 575 0327 Email: lea.felluss@iccwbo.org