



## **HARVESTING THE BENEFITS OF TRADE FACILITATION FOR LLDCs**

Side Event at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN CONFERENCE ON LLDCs  
Vienna, Austria, 4 November 2014 (13:15 – 14:45), VIC Room M5

### **Background:**

Trade Facilitation can yield great benefits to LLDCs as it seeks to drive efficiency in the international trade chain, lower trade costs, and reduce delays at border crossing, thereby enhancing the opportunities for LLDCs to integrate in global value chains.

Comprehensive implementation of the trade facilitation reform can potentially improve the trade competitiveness of the LLDCs. According to the World Bank Doing Business Report for 2014, LLDCs pay more than double what transit countries incur in transport costs and take more time to send and receive merchandise from overseas markets. The potential gains from the implementation of the trade facilitation measures at global level are high. For example, OECD estimates cost reductions to be between 10% and 15%, if the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is involved.

To derive the full benefits of trade facilitation, LLDCs and transit countries need to cooperate, undertaking transport and trade facilitation reforms jointly in a collaborative manner thereby achieving mutual benefits.

Experience shows that technical and financial assistance to support trade facilitation reform is important both for LLDCs and transit countries. International organizations provide this type of assistance, which is an integral part of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

### **Objective:**

The event aims at highlighting the mutual benefits of trade facilitation reform for LLDCs and transit countries alike, with a view to assisting LLDCs integrating in global supply and value chains.

The expected outcome of the event is identification of the benefits of trade facilitation for LLDCs and transit countries as well as concrete recommendations on the efficient implementation of trade facilitation for both LLDCs and transit countries for mutual benefit.

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<b>Agenda</b>	
<b>13:15 - 14:45</b>	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> H.E. Juan Esteban Aguirre, Ambassador, Permanent Representative Paraguay to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Raul Torres, Counsellor, WTO</li><li>• Mr. Poul Hansen, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li><li>• Mr. Erdenetsogt Odbayar, Interim Director of the International Think Tank for LLDCs, Mongolia, representing the LLDC community</li><li>• Mr. Rabson Wanjala, Counsellor, Mission of Kenya, Geneva, representing the transit country community</li><li>• Mr. Igor Runov, Under-Secretary-General, IRU, representing the private sector</li><li>• Open Discussion</li><li>• Conclusion</li></ul> <p>Launch event by Mongolia and UN-OHRLLS of the Joint Publication on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Implications for LLDCs by UN-OHRLLS and the International Think Tank for LLDCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Damba Gankhuyag, Deputy-Foreign-Minister, Mongolia</li><li>• UN-OHRLLS</li></ul>

Panelists have 7 minutes for their respective interventions.