



The Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

High-Level Interactive Thematic Roundtable "Regional Integration and Transit Cooperation"

4 November 2014, 10:00-13:00, Boardroom A, Vienna International Conference Centre

Theme of the Event

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face special challenges associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets. Regional integration and cooperation, in particular in terms of harmonization of transit policies and procedures, infrastructure development and trade facilitation is important for enhancing the integration of the LLDCs into regional networks which is crucial for improving their competitiveness and access to the seaports, increasing their access to markets and maximizing their benefits from globalization.

Objective and Expected Outcome of the Event

In the *Regional Integration and Transit Cooperation Roundtable*, panellists will discuss the progress made, highlight success stories, obstacles and constraints in enhancing regional integration and transit cooperation with a view of integration LLDCs into the global economy. The meeting will identify priority areas, policies and development initiatives to promote regional integration and transit cooperation for the benefit of the LLDCs in the era of the new Programme of Action. The outcome of the meeting would inform and guide future work of UN-OHRLLS, UN Regional Economic Commissions and other stakeholders with the view to support fostering of regional integration in all regions that have landlocked developing countries.

Proposed Composition of the Panel

Chair

- 1) H.E. Mr. Hachim Koumaré, Minister of Equipment and Transport, Mali

Keynote speaker(s)

- 1) H.E. Mr. Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zimbabwe
- 2) H.E. Mr. Yamfwa Mukanga, Minister of Transport, Works, Supply & Communications, Zambia
- 3) H. E. Mr. Kalykbek Sultanov, Minister of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyz Republic

Panellists

- 1) Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- 2) Dr. Anthony M. Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union
- 3) Mr. Eduard Biriucov, Secretary General, TRACECA
- 4) Mr. Pierre Guislain, Senior Director for the Transport and Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Global Practice, World Bank
- 5) Dr. Naomi Chakwin, Representative of European Representative Office, Asian Development Bank
- 6) Ms. Eva Molnar, Director, Transport Division, UN ECE
- 7) Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Interactive discussion