MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LLDCs FOR THE DECADE 2014-2024 IN THE AFRICA REGION

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OUTLINE:

- LLDCs progress in ratification and effective implementation of regional and sub-regional agreements
- Regional and sub-regional institutional reforms
- Efforts and progress on reducing transport cost and transit times
Guiding Transit Policy Frameworks, Plans and Actions for LLDCs in Africa
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LLDCs Fundamental Transit Policy Issues

Towards One African Market

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

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The AfCFTA’s potential benefits for African countries include employment, industrial linkages, economic diversification and structural economic transformation thus generating sustainable development (ECA, AfDB and AUC, 2018).

Forty-four countries signed the agreement establishing AfCFTA, a single continental market for goods and services with free movement of business persons and investments in Kigali during the 10th African Union Extraordinary Summit. In addition, 30 countries signed Protocol on Free Movement of People while 47 signed the Kigali Declaration.

To date 20 countries have ratified the AfCFTA, 2 more countries are left to get to 22 needed for the agreement to be effective.
Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) was launched in January 2018. Air transport offers enhanced access to LLDCs.

To date, over 20 countries have ratified it, other countries are already practicing fifth freedom.
LLDCs Fundamental Transit Policy Issues

- Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (successor to the Comprehensive Tripartite Transport and Trade Facilitation Programme (CTTTFP)) that aims at
  - Harmonized Vehicle Load Management;
  - Harmonized Vehicle Regulations and Standards;
  - Integrated Transport Registers and Information Platform and System;
  - Efficiency of Regional Transport Corridors.
Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for Trade Facilitation

African Maritime Action Plan Adopted
The objectives of the African Maritime Charter are as follows to:

1. Declare, articulate and implement harmonized maritime transport policies capable of promoting sustained growth and development of African merchant fleets and to foster closer cooperation among the States Parties of the same region and between the regions.

2. Facilitate and encourage regular consultations for determining African common positions on issues of international maritime policy and to define, for each given problem, concerted solutions.

3. Promote effective implementation of international maritime instruments to which Member States are parties.

4. Promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the maritime administrations of States Parties, and their respective operational organizations in the field of maritime and inland waterways transport and port activities.

5. Promote the funding, undertaking of research studies by national institutions that encourage the promotion and development of cooperation in maritime and inland waterways transport and port operations among States Parties and regions.

6. Encourage the establishment and support of maritime and ports administrations.

7. Encourage the establishment of shippers’ councils and support them in the performance of their functions.
African Corridor Management Alliance (ACMA): ECA through ATPC is working with the newly established ACMA to identify priority issues and areas of coordination on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) assistance in the context of development corridors. The ACMA initiative was launched by ATPC in collaboration of AUC at the Africa Trade Forum in 2012 to enhance cooperation and coordination, and promote information sharing among corridor management institutes in Africa.
Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI): ECA has supported PACCI on popularizing paperless trading through single windows (SWs). As a key activity within this project, case studies are being developed on Kenya and Nigeria on SW implementation. The case studies will be used to engage both public and private sector on the benefits and challenges involved, with the aim to increase SW implementation on the continent.

African Alliance on E-Commerce (AAEC): ECA through ATPC has supported the establishment and work of the AAEC, including an ongoing project on producing guidelines on implementation of single window. The AAEC published in 2013 (with ATPC support) a guide for single window implementation (www.swguide.org). This guide is currently being updated. ATPC has also supported sensitization activities on the guide, in addition to a pilot project on electronic certificate of origin exchange among African countries (Cameroon and Republic of Congo in CEMAC and Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire in WAEMU).
ECA conducts robust research and training that informs policy makers, and collaborates with partners with Implementing Capacities to support African member countries especially landlocked countries.

Instruments are existing, what is missing is translating these policies on the ground—Implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION and ADVOCACY and CAPACITY BUILDING INTIATIVES
THANK YOU!

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