Report of the Eight Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the
Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

Conference Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva
10 April 2019
A. Introduction

The Eighth Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs was held in Geneva on 10 April 2019. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). The IACG provided a platform for the participating organizations to update each other on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA), as well as consult on the ongoing preparations for the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the VPoA.

The meeting was chaired by UN-OHRLLS and opened by Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS. The meeting was attended by participants from 19 different institutions as shown in the participant list in annex 1. The meeting followed the agenda presented in annex 2. A preliminary list of side events to be organized during the midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action is included in annex 3.

B. Opening Session

Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda for the meeting. He noted that some progress has been made in the implementation of the VPoA since 2014, such as ratification of the WTOs Trade Facilitation Agreement by the LLDCs, some efforts to structurally transform LLDCs’ economies and more active participation by LLDCs in regional agreements. However, challenges remain. He elaborated that LLDCs’ trade integration remains low, their exports are undiversified, infrastructure remains inadequate, premature de-industrialization is taking place, and means of implementation remain unproportionate given LLDCs’ special needs.

Mr. Erdenebileg urged those organizations that have not yet submitted their input into the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the VPoA to do so as soon as possible. He reiterated that OHRLLS was mandated to co-ordinate the preparations for the midterm review, which are ongoing. He referred to the 20 national reports on the implementation of the VPoA that OHRLLS received. In terms of regional preparations, he informed that the last regional review meeting will be held for the Latin America region in June at ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago. At the global level, he recalled that more than 12 pre-conference events have been organized already, by UN-OHRLLS and other members of the IACG. He noted that the outcome of the preparatory process will all feed into a draft outline of the outcome document of the midterm review, that OHRLLS has been mandated to prepare. He also informed that the President of the General Assembly has appointed two co-facilitators to lead the informal consultations, the Ambassadors of Bhutan and Austria in New York. He expressed hope that the midterm review will come out with concrete and action-oriented outcome document to revitalize the implementation of the VPoA.

Mr. Erdenebileg further emphasized that the IACG organizations need to continue to provide support to the LLDCs to mainstream their concerns into major UN processes, such as Financing for Development Forum, the Belt and Road Forum, the High-Level Political Forum, the Aid for Trade review and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction, and the high-level events during the GA in September.

He urged the participants to discuss ideas for the substantive elements for the outcome document of the midterm review and to share interests in organizing side events during the midterm review.
In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Julio Peralta, Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the UN in Geneva, and LLDC Group Global Chair and Coordinator on Trade and Development in Geneva stressed that the work of the inter-agency group is fundamental to moving forward the interests of the LLDCs. He noted that strong partnerships between the various agencies are needed to optimize the work of the UN, including in reinforcing the linkages between the implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda. He expressed commitment of Paraguay to continue working towards the implementation of the VPoA, the SDGs and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as promoting the work of the inter-agency group. He also noted that the Group of LLDCs supports the Secretary General’s initiative of repositioning of the UN Developing System but stressed that the needs of countries in special situations should remain a priority in this process. He expressed thanks to UN-OHRLLS and the High Representative in supporting the LLDCs.

C. Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the LLDCs

Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN-OHRLLS highlighted the outcomes of recent pre-conference events organized by OHRLLS. She noted that the side event on Climate change and LLDCs organized with UNFCCC in the margins of COP 24 highlighted the challenges faced by LLDCs such as desertification, land degradation, severe weather such as droughts and floods and increased disasters and stressed that LLDCs need enhanced support towards adaptation and mitigation efforts; developing climate-resilient infrastructure; simplified and enhanced access to climate financing and new technologies; and strengthened resilience building. She mentioned the side event organized by International Think Tank for LLDCs, JETRO and OHRLLS during the Euro-Asian regional review meeting which presented a model for estimating benefits of transit corridors that governments can use for decision-making, calling for such tools to be promoted and utilized further. She also noted the event on Strengthening ICT Connectivity and digital inclusion of LLDCs organized with ITU during the 2019 WSIS Forum, which called for increased ICT investment in rural areas; greater cross-border collaboration; creating of a conducive environment; enhanced capacity building support; and utilizing the potential of e-commerce. She indicated that further pre-conference events will be organized, including on structural economic transformation and Science, Technology and Innovation; trade facilitation; and transport corridors.

Ms. Mutangadura then highlighted some key messages coming out of the regional review meetings:

- Overall, there has been some progress, however the progress is slow.
- On transit issues, the high ratification of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is encouraging, but effective implementation of the agreement is now needed. Other notable achievements include the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA); Eurasian Economic Union; Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement.
- Notable achievements have been made to build and upgrade transport, energy and ICT infrastructure, however there is still great need to close missing links, improve access and provide support in developing bankable projects.
- On trade facilitation, a lot of progress is being made including establishment of one-stop border posts, single windows, information portals, enhanced use of ASYCUDA, trade facilitation committees and others.
- Progress towards structural economic transformation and export diversification in most LLDCs is slow and concerted efforts to accelerate progress are needed.
Challenges faced in implementation of the VPoA include limited financing for infrastructure development and maintenance; limited technical and institutional capacity; the effects of climate change and disasters; lack of adequate data to plan, monitor, and review on the progress.

Ms. Mutangadura recalled that OHRLLS in cooperation with the Regional Commissions is implementing a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of LLDCs under the Belt and Road Initiative to design and implement policies that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the SDGs" funded by China through the 2030 Agenda Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development, that is being used to financially support the organization of the regional review meetings.

Ms. Mutangadura informed that the co-facilitators for the midterm review are getting ready to commence intergovernmental consultations soon after the Latin America Regional Review Meeting in June. She added that an Ambassadorial retreat will be held in May in New York to exchange views on the elements for the outcome document. She mentioned that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the VPoA will also feed into the negotiations.

Lastly, she informed that several requests for side events during the midterm review have been received and urged interested organizations to submit their proposals as soon as possible, given the limited number of side events that will be possible due to room limitations.

The representative of UN ECA, Mr. Emmanuel J Chinyama, recalled the signing of the agreement on establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is a milestone by African countries aimed at creating a single market. With the historical signing by 52 African countries, the Agreement is the first of its kind and the largest trade agreement since the formation of the WTO. He also highlighted some of the key AfCFTA potential benefits for African countries including job creation; industrial linkages, economic diversification and structural transformation. He reported on some of the ECA work, including a study specifically on ratification of the legal instruments which are critical for the implementation of the AfCFTA, particularly for the LLDCs. He underscored the need to cooperate with OHRLLS in preparation of the study. He also noted that ECA is working with UNCTAD on preparation of i-guides in a number of African countries that can help LLDCs in promoting investment. He also reported on the on-going work by the ECA on the establishment of the The iGuide which is an online platform designed to provide domestic and foreign investors with up-to-date information on key issues relating to investments aimed at assisting governments in attracting more and better foreign investments in line with their national development strategies. He noted that the iGuides will be influential to a number of countries including the LLDCs.

Mr. Erdenebileg of UN-OHRLLS added that UN-OHRLLS and ECA organized together the regional review meeting in Morocco, the outcome of which was submitted to and endorsed by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Mr. Roel Janssens, the representative of UN ECE, informed that the Euro-Asian regional review meeting co-organized by ECE, ESCAP and OHRLLS resulted in very substantial outcome document which will provide inputs to the midterm review outcome document. With regards to ECE work related to VPoA, he noted that the third phase of the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project concluded last year and the Phase III report has been released at the 2019 Inland Transport Committee meeting. He explained that one of the main findings was that road and rail transport on EATL does not necessarily need to be looked at as competing with maritime transport, but rather as supplementing it. He explained that possibilities are being explored to launch phase IV, which in accordance with the Phase III recommendations could focus on the need for countries to develop more specific corridor approach and coordinating mechanisms. He added that Phase III found that countries and organizations along rail and road transport corridors
between Europe and Asia are not cooperating enough, in terms of infrastructure development, as well as tariffs and procedural issues.

Mr. Janssens explained that the project to establish International Transport Infrastructure Observatory has been delayed due to challenges related to availability of data and converting it into a Geographic Information System format. He noted that ECE and ECO are planning to organize a workshop to take stock of the available information and call on countries participating in the project to provide missing data. Mr. Janssens highlighted that there was a new convention inaugurated at this year’s Inland Transport Committee meeting, entitled Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail. He added that the Convention required 5 signatories to enter into force, and Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkey already expressed intention to sign. Mr. Janssens also informed that discussions are continuing within the UNECE Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law. He added that several virtual test runs have taken place in previous years, real pilot runs were held recently and that the next meeting of the Group of Experts in July 2019 should endeavour to make a decision on what the law will cover. Mr. Janssens also announced that at its latest session, the Inland Transport Committee reached consensus on and adopted its 2030 Strategy aimed at harmonizing inland transport developments worldwide and creating safe and sustainable mobility.

Mr. Janssens expressed interest to organize, potentially together with IRU and UN-OHRLLS, a side event during the midterm review on digitalization of transport documents, e-TIR and other digital solutions for transport.

**Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, the representative of WTO,** explained that the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) has been a key priority for the LLDCs. He noted that all the 26 LLDC WTO members made category A notifications to the WTO, but stressed that it is important to see whether the notifications are being implemented, not only by LLDCs but also by transit countries. He informed that WTO analysis suggests that transit countries have not yet categorized around 30% of the obligations. He suggested that the midterm review could push for the implementation of specific obligations by the transit countries that are important to the LLDCs, for instance those in Article 11.

Mr. Priyadarshi highlighted the importance of assisting the LLDCs in infrastructure through the Global Aid for Trade review. He informed that in 2017 LLDCs received $7.2 billion in Aid for Trade, close to 20% more than in 2016. He stressed that two highest receipts of Aid for Trade have gone to agriculture and energy, and only then followed by transport. Hence, he suggested that it is important to discuss what priority LLDCs give to the different sectors. He noted that preliminary results from the Aid for Trade Survey reveal that LLDCs have been giving a lot of emphasis to digital connectivity and digital trade as one way to overcome landlockedness. He affirmed WTO’s commitment to participate in the midterm review and to contribute inputs to any planned side events on implementation of the TFA and Aid for Trade.

He informed that the next WTO Ministerial Conference is taking place in Kazakhstan and that it is an opportunity for LLDCs to push for and achieve a specific Ministerial outcome on some of their main issues. He expressed WTO’s willingness to work with OHRLLS towards this. He concluded by saying that an alignment between the interests of LLDCs and small economies group can be seen at the WTO and suggested that if common issues, such as digital connectivity, can be found, they can be brought up in the Committee on Trade and Development Dedicated Session on small economies.

**Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig, the representative of WIPO,** stressed that the number of LLDCs benefitting from WIPO’s technical cooperation program and activities, in particular through technological and patent
information, establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centres, human resource capacity building and branding for development capacity building, continues to increase. He added that WIPO has implemented its project on transfer of appropriate technology for development in four LLDCs, namely Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda and Zambia, and received requests from more countries. He informed that WIPO is planning to organize in cooperation with the Government of Mongolia and the International Think Tank for LLDCs an Inter-regional Meeting on Technological Capacity Building for Senior Officials from LLDCs in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia later this year to discuss possible ways of collaboration on supporting structural transformation of LLDCs through the use of intellectual property system and innovation by strengthening and building the capacity of LLDCs to effectively utilize scientific and technical information.

Mr. Vaanchig highlighted that according to the Global Innovation Index 2018, the innovation performance of LLDCs remains low and the key challenges faced by LLDCs include lack of innovation-friendly legal framework; low investment into R&D; weak collaboration among stakeholders at the national level; the limited partnerships between higher learning and research institutions and public and private sector; lack of skills and human capital base; inadequate access to credit and support structure for innovation for private sector actors; and lack of adequate infrastructure, ICT, logistics, transport, energy. He noted that LLDCs have identified capacity constraints in the area of science, technology and innovation as the main impediment to their development. In this regard, he suggested that possible elements raised in the outcome document of the midterm review could include developing innovation-friendly policies, regulations and institutions; increasing investments in R&D; developing skills and human capital base able to deal with technologies and contribute to domestic innovation; creating and strengthening support structures and services are needed to facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge and others.

Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert, the representative of UNCTAD, highlighted that UNCTAD assists LLDCs to achieve the priorities of action through research and analysis, technical assistance and intergovernmental consensus-building. He noted that on transport, UNCTAD is focused on promoting sustainable freight transport, including through integrated corridor management systems, and promoting sustainability principles along corridors. He added that UNCTAD also assists LLDCs and transit countries with the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, especially article 11 on Transit coordination and appointment of national Transit coordinators. He also mentioned that ASYCUDA includes a transit management module for processing transit operations and managing transit guarantees.

Mr. Meier-Ewert then informed that UNCTAD work to develop Productive Capacities Index is continuing, with national workshops held in Rwanda and Lao PDR in July and August 2018 to validate the index and provide training on productive capacities. He added that regional workshops on productive capacities were organized in Botswana in November 2018 and in Namibia in April 2019. He highlighted that UNCTAD is also preparing a project in Rwanda, with a particular focus on strengthening the management of Export Processing Zones, private sector, ICT policies and export diversification. He informed that UNCTAD also prepared a study on export diversification in Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan which found that the agro-processing sector, light manufacturing and the tourism sectors hold potential in many of the Asian LLDCs.

Mr. Meier-Ewert then emphasized that UNCTAD organized a number of pre-conference events for the mid-term review of the VPoA. For example, UNCTAD, in cooperation with UNESCAP and UNECE, organized an Expert Group Meeting for the Asia Region on the midterm review of the VPoA in Almaty in September 2018. UNCTAD further hosted a brainstorming meeting for Ambassadors of LLDCs in New York in December 2018 and for Ambassadors in Geneva in January 2019; and organised a side event during the Euro-Asian regional review meeting. He highlighted UNCTAD’s preparations for a paper assessing the
progress achieved by LLDCs in the implementation of the VPoA. Lastly, he expressed UNCTAD’s interest to organize, with CFC, a side event during the midterm review, focused on role of impact investment, technology, and integrating into global value chains in achieving the SDGs in LLDCs.

Ms. Vyara Filipova, the representative of the WCO, reminded the IACG that in July 2017 the WCO had launched the Transit Guidelines – a tool containing 150 guiding principles for efficient transit regimes. She noted that following the launch of the tool, the WCO had directed its efforts towards promoting the implementation of the Transit Guidelines and collecting national and regional best practices in the area of transit. She highlighted that WCO had organized five regional workshops, two of which in partnership with the World Bank and IRU. She informed that the last workshop in the series of regional workshops, the one for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, was planned to be delivered later in April 2019.

Ms. Filipova noted that the best practices collected during these workshops and results from a call for submission of best practices by WCO Members, would be compiled into a Compendium of best practices in the area of transit, planned to be launched in autumn 2019. The representative suggested organising a pre-conference event or a side event at the high-level mid-term review of the VPoA, to launch the Compendium of best practices. In addition, Ms. Filipova mentioned that WCO organised in March 2019 an accreditation workshop for French-speaking experts on transit, thereby extending its pool of experts capable of delivering technical assistance and capacity building support to the Members of the WCO.

Mr. Manuel Mattiat, the representative of UNIDO, reiterated that UNIDO’s support to LLDCs is centred on structural transformation and economic diversification, with the goal of generating inclusive industrial sector and improving manufacturing capacity of the LLDCs. He explained that UNIDO is assisting LLDCs in improving competitiveness and enhancing their integration into international markets through regional and global value chains development, trade capacity building, strengthening of infrastructure quality, investment promotion, renewable energy and energy efficiency and industrial parks development. He highlighted that UNIDO has technical assistance and capacity building programmes in all LLDCs, with stand-alone comprehensive country programmes in 12 LLDCs. He highlighted examples of recently launched activities on quality infrastructure development, coffee value chain development, establishment of small hydro power plans in Burundi; rural electrification project in Chad linked to development of agro-value chains; establishment of production plans for solar panel development in Moldova; project on improving competitiveness of export-oriented sectors in Armenia.

He reiterated that UNIDO has been piloting new assistance package for accelerating industrial development, the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), based on multi-stakeholder partnerships, led by host government and with UNIDO playing a facilitating and convening role, preparing investment profiles and providing capacity building. He noted that the PCPs are focused on limited number of industrial sectors with high growth and development potential and aimed at leveraging large private investments. He informed that the PCP is being piloted in 5 countries, including in 2 LLDCs, Ethiopia and Kyrgyzstan, with Zambia’s PCP in preparation. Mr. Mattiat invited other agencies to join UNIDO in helping achieve sustainable and inclusive industrial development, including through the PCP model.

Mr. Andrzej Bolesa, the representative of ESCAP, stressed that the outcome of the Euro-Asia regional midterm review meeting was a very robust document highlighting positive developments; infrastructure is being built, regional cooperation is taking place, trade facilitation measures are being implemented. However, he also noted that the remaining challenges in the region, as described in the Outcome Document, include stagnant share in global trade and limited progress in structural transformation. He
informed that a resolution is being prepared by the Chair of the meeting, Mongolia, to present the Outcome Document at the 75th Annual Commission Session and to mandate ESCAP for further actions concerning the support for implementation of VPoA by member states. He expressed hope that the Resolution will be presented and adopted during the Commission session.

Mr. Bolesta recalled the Expert Group Meeting on the midterm review organized by ESCAP, UNCTAD and ECE in Almaty in September 2018, which was attended by 12 LLDCs from Asia and Europe. He mentioned that ESCAP contributed to UNCTAD-organized capacity building workshops for LLDCs on structural transformation in Mongolia in October 2018 and in Botswana in November 2018. He expressed ESCAP’s interest in organizing a side event during the global midterm review, with a tentative theme of “structural transformation and resource mobilization”.

Mr. Jens Hügel, the representative of IRU, highlighted the synergies between the efforts of all the different organizations, noting that IRU engages with many organizations on different activities related to the VPoA, in particular with regards to trade and transport facilitation. He stressed that IRU fully supports ECE and the countries that ratified the TIR convention to unleash the full potential of this convention. He informed that IRU is focusing on making the TIR digital, working with all the respective Governments in this regard, noting that Annex 11 of the Convention is to be approved during a special meeting in Geneva in June. He emphasized that testing and implementing digital TIR projects on the corridors is important, including in LLDCs such as Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan.

Mr. Hügel mentioned that the President of Mongolia met with senior management of IRU in October, with the two sides agreeing to work together closely on legal review of existing legal conventions that Mongolia acceded to and would like to accede to, with special focus on the TIR convention and CMR. He noted that capacity building for customs officials is another issue that was discussed.

Mr. Gustavo Katz Braga, the representative of the CFC, highlighted the challenges of the LLDCs, in particular the low productive capacities and structural weaknesses, making them especially vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. He suggested that LLDCs should encourage investments in their productive sectors, taking advantage of their commodity endowment and supporting the emergence of a diversified economic system by strategically re-investing commodity derived incomes. He noted that CFC believes that the private sector can be a valuable partner in achieving this goal. He explained that by investing in SMEs, the CFC expects to empower primary producers, giving them the tools and resources to scale up on the value chain and reducing their dependency on the commodities market.

He informed that during the period from 2014 to 2018, the CFC received 171 project proposals originating from 14 LLDCs, with 16 projects approved by CFC’s Executive Board to receive financial support from CFC. The total value of these projects is $45.2 million of which about $13.5 million is committed by the CFC. He added that during 2018 alone, the CFC considered 52 project proposals originating from LLDCs, with one project taken for consideration of CFC financing: the Agro Food Processing Complex, submitted by AGROSERV Industrie S.A. (AGROSERV), an industrial maize processing company from Burkina Faso. He noted that in ten years, AGROSERV has become one of the leading maize processing companies in the country, with about 40% of the maize used in the processing unit being sourced from 4,000 smallholder farmers. He explained that the project aims to double AGROSERV’s processing capacity by building a second processing unit and creating more value-added products by shifting from primary processing of maize to secondary transformation with an expanded range of processed products including pre-cooked couscous, baby cereal mixes, enriched flour, chips, soy protein and animal feed. He highlighted that the
project will reduce the importing needs of Burkina Faso and is expected to reach a total of 10,000 smallholders farmers and create 64 new jobs.

Mr. Katz Braga emphasized that investment in commodity driven development is a prerequisite for sustainable economic development in LLDCs and urged the international community to reflect on the need for a global commodity agenda for development.

The representative of ITC, Mr. Ruben Phoolchund, highlighted that over the last four years, ITC has implemented 29 national projects and 5 regional projects in LLDCs. He stressed that ITC has strong history of working to connect MSMEs to value chains. He presented some examples of ITC work: ITC is building capacity of women and youth entrepreneurs in Bhutan with the aim to increase trade; in Afghanistan ITC is working with vulnerable communities to enhance integration of SMEs into value chains; ITC is supporting social enterprises, by identifying potential buyers and facilitating the exchanges; in Kyrgyzstan ITC is working with private sector through supporting consolidation of the textiles and clothing industry.

He noted that the ITC She Trades initiative, launched in 2015, is continuing, with She Trades Zambia launched last year, to enable Zambian women to increase economic participation, focusing on textiles and agricultural value chains. He added that ITC will continue with She Trades in Rwanda this year. Mr. Phoolchund affirmed that ITC will work to improve working conditions and diversify trade in LLDCs in order to promote job creation and reduce poverty, by continuing to support the removal of transport barriers that limit participation of SMEs.

D. Closing Session

In closing, Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, UN-OHRLLS, thanked all the participants for their updates, their organizations’ engagement on LLDC issues and their contributions to the implementation of the VPoA, as well as the preparations for the midterm review. He emphasized that while many organizations work on similar issues, each organization has a very specific way to support the LLDCs, under different mandate, with different technical expertise.

He stressed that OHRLLS will continue to coordinate the preparatory process for the midterm review, calling on the organizations to send any further proposals for side events during the midterm review. He noted that the list of side events will be finalized in the next few months. He reiterated that the dates of the midterm review will be communicated as soon as they are decided. Mr. Erdenebileg encouraged all the organizations to continue to contribute to the midterm review process and its preparations and reiterated the invitation to the organizations to participate in the midterm review at the highest possible level.
Annex 1: List of participants

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)
Mr. Gustavo Katz Braga, Impact Strategy Officer, Gustavo.katzbraga@common-fund.org

UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA)
Mr. Emmanuel Joshua Chinyama, Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, chinyama@un.org
Ms. Jane Karonga, Economic Affairs Officer, Industrialization and Infrastructure Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, karonga@un.org

UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE)
Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Transport Division, roel.janssens@un.org

UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP)
Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, Countries with Special Needs Section Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, bolesta@un.org

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar, Economist, FAO Office in Geneva, Ahmad.Mukhtar@fao.org

International Trade Centre (ITC)
Mr. Ruben Phoolchund, phoolchund@intracen.org

International Road Transport Union (IRU)
Mr. Jens Hügel, Senior Adviser, Jens.Huegel@iru.org
Ms. Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Senior Manager, External Relations, marie-helene.vanderpool@iru.org

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert, Economic Affairs Officer, LLDC Section, Division for Africa, LDCs ad Special Programmes, email: Moritz.Meier-Ewert@unctad.org
Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, Jan.Hoffmann@UN.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. Zhaocan Li, Geneva Liaison Office, zh.li@unesco.org

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Ms. Petal Thomas, Multilateral and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Policy and Strategy Division, pthomas@unfpa.org

United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Mr. Manuel Mattiat, Programme Officer, Regional Division - Africa (PTC/PPF/AFR), Department of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Integration, M.MATTIAT@unido.org
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
Mr. Guillaume Durand, Intern, Partnerships, Inter-governmental process and Inter-agency cooperation Branch, guillaume.durand@un.org

World Customs Organization (WCO)
Ms. Vyara Filipova, Technical Attaché, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, Vyara.Filipova@wcoomd.org

World Food Programme (WFP)
Ms. Meghan Sullivan, Meghan.sullivan@wfp.org

World Health organization (WHO)
Mr. Bo JIA, Technical Officer, Department of Country Cooperation and Collaboration with UN System, Office of the Director General, jiab@who.int

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr. Purevdorj Vaanchig, Senior Counsellor, Division for LDCs, purevdorj.vaanchig@wipo.int

World Bank
Mr. Ferran Pérez, International Affairs Officer, World Bank Group Geneva Office, fperezribo@worldbank.org

World Trade Organization (WTO)
Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, shishir.priyadarshi@wto.org
Mr. Rainer Lanz, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Division, rainer.lanz@wto.org

UN-OHRLLS
Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief, erdenebileg@un.org
Mr. Aniket Ghai, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ghai1@un.org
Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Officer, mutangadura@un.org
Ms. Dagmar Hertova, Programme Officer, hertova@un.org

Paraguay
H.E. Mr. Julio Peralta, Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Renata Cristaldo, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, rcristaldo@misionparaguay.ch
Annex 2: Agenda of the meeting

Eight Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024

10 April 2019
Conference Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Opening session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Opening remarks by Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN Office of High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Remarks by H.E. Mr. Julio Peralta, Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the UN in Geneva, LLDC Group Global Chair and Coordinator on Trade and Development in Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 12:50</td>
<td>Update on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and consultations on the preparations for the midterm review of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>implementation of the VPoA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Briefing by Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Officer, UN-OHRLLS on the preparations for the midterm review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Presentations by participating organizations on their events and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>activities towards the implementation of the VPoA and their inputs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>into the midterm review of the VPoA, including pre-conference events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and analytical work and side events during the midterm review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50 – 13:00</td>
<td>Summary of the consultations and recommendations on way forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Summary of discussion and concluding remarks by Mr Sandagdorj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erdenebileg, UN-OHRLLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 3: Preliminary list of side events during the midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action

Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action

Proposed Side Events at the Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the VPoA

December 2019, New York

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Financing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa’s Landlocked Least Developed Countries through Strengthened Trade Ties Within the Framework of the AfCFTA</td>
<td>UNECA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Modernization of the transit process – opportunities offered by TIR</td>
<td>UNECE (in collaboration with IRU and OHRLLS (TBC))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Impact financing and technology for advancing SDGs by investing in value chains in LLDCs</td>
<td>CFC, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) LLDCs and their Voluntary National Reviews</td>
<td>UN DESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Launching of a WCO publication: Compendium of best practices in the area of transit (TBC)</td>
<td>WCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Structural transformation and resource mobilization</td>
<td>UN ESCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Accelerating industrialization of LLDCs in the framework of IDDA III (Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa)</td>
<td>UNIDO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>