1. Introduction

The key role of the private sector in stimulating economic development and contributing to poverty reduction is widely acknowledged and has become central to international, regional and national development agendas. Key international decisions including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA), recognize the vital role of the private sector in their implementation as well as in the overall development of nations. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the role of the private sector to support the international community’s endeavors to tackle economic, social and environmental challenges. The VPoA recognizes that the contribution of the private sector is critical for its successful implementation hence the role of the private sector is highlighted in almost all the priority areas of the VPoA and the highlighted aspects include: improving transit facilitation and establishing efficient transit transport regimes; infrastructure development and maintenance; trade facilitation reforms, structural economic transformation and in the overall implementation of the VPoA. The VPoA also recognizes the private sector as the service provider and user of services as well as the main contributor to the development of infrastructure and productive capacities in both LLDCs and in transit countries.

Despite the widely recognized critical role of the private sector in achieving sustainable development goals and VPoA targets, the private sector in LLDCs tends to be small and with limited development, thus limiting its role in the implementation of the VPoA. It is therefore necessary to enhance the private sector participation in the implementation of the VPoA. Building the capacity of the LLDCs’ private sector as well as providing a conducive environment to enhance their participation is therefore fundamental.

2. Objectives of the event

The event will be organized in the margins of the Comprehensive High-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action it is aimed at enhancing private sector participation in the implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda by showcasing good practices. The meeting will also discuss policy options for creating a supportive business environment for growth and development of the private sector.
3. **The specific objectives include to:**
   i. Catalyze the private sector to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the VPoA including through the PPPs;
   ii. Identify/Review areas where private sector support on the implementation of the VPoA can be enhanced;
   iii. Provide platform to discuss policies and measures that could help strengthen the LLDCs’ private sector including their participation in socioeconomic development;
   iv. Identify technical assistance and capacity building areas.

4. **Expected Outcome**
   i. Increase awareness on the role of the private sector in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.
   ii. Policy recommendations for strengthening the competitiveness of the private sector in LLDCs;
   iii. Identified opportunities for technical assistance and capacity building and possible partners;

5. **Format of the event**

The event will feature panel presentations by panelists representing different stakeholders including representatives from UN, other international organizations, private sector and Member States. The panel presentations will be followed by an interactive dialogue with members of the audience.

6. **Co-organizers**

The event is being organized by UN-OHRLLS, International Trade Centre (ITC), International Think Tank for LLDCs, and International Center for Transport Diplomacy (ICTD)

7. **Participants**

The event will bring together senior officials from the landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries, development partners and other member states, United Nations organizations, multilateral development institutions, academia, and the private sector.

8. **Date and Venue**

The event will be held on 6 December 2019 at 13:15-14:30 during the Comprehensive High-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action and will be held Conference Room 11 at UN Headquarters in New York.
MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Side Event

Strengthening the private sector role in the implementation of the VPoA

Friday 6 December 2019, 13:15-14:30, CR 11

Organizers: UN-OHRLLS, International Trade Centre (ITC), International Think Tank for LLDCs, and International Center for Transport Diplomacy

Programme

Moderator /Opening Remarks: Ms. Fekitamoeloa ʻUtoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General, UN-OHRLLS

Speakers

- Honorable Mr. Manqoba Bheki Khumalo, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Kingdom of Eswatini
- Honorable Mr. Ralph Pachalo Jooma, Minister of Transport and Public Works, Malawi
- Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Mr. Ashish Shah, Director for Country Programmes, International Trade Centre
- Mr. Igor Runov, Executive Secretary, International Center for Transport Diplomacy (ICTD)
- Dr. Sandra Seno-Alday, Professor, University of Sydney (Partner of the International Think Tank for LLDCs)

Experience sharing by Member States and interactive discussion

Wrap up and Closing