



Expert group meeting on the regional implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries

United Nations Conference Centre, Meeting Room F Bangkok, Thailand 30 November 2016

Programme

In the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, ESCAP, along with other regional and subregional organizations, governing bodies of United Nations system entities and international organizations were invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) into their programmes of work. In its resolution 71/3, Member States of ESCAP requested the Executive Secretary to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate and within its respective mandate, and to submit annual analytical reports on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

The expert group meeting (EGM) will bring together eminent experts in the region and beyond to provide regional perspectives and in-depth country experiences in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that address their special sustainable development needs and policy challenges in a more coherent manner. The secretariat report and discussions will feed into the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries in the 73rd ESCAP Commission Session in May 2017.

Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report (CSN Development Report) 2017, a new ESCAP flagship publication aimed at informing policy maker about the development challenges and prospects of the region's 36 least developed countries (LDC), landlocked developing countries (LLDC), and small island developing states (SIDS), will also benefit from the review of the VPoA. The report is expected to provide a timely and comprehensive review and analysis of the status, challenges and prospects of each of these groups of countries and targeted policy options to promote their inclusive growth and sustainable development. The theme of the 2017 Report is "Investment in Infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable future".

The ESCAP Secretariat will introduce the topic and make the overview presentations. The discussants will be requested to share their perspectives on priorities for action and the CSN Development Report 2017.

08:00-08:45	Registration of participants (ground floor, UNCC)
08:45-09:00	Welcome remarks Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD) Hamza Ali Malik, Officer-in-Charge, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division

09:00 10:15

Session 1: Regional Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action

This session will review the current situation of Asia-Pacific LLDCs with regard to priorities for action in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussion will focus on various policy challenges and underscore the need for assessing the progress towards implementation of aspects of the VPoA, with emphasis on the priority area on the infrastructure development and maintenance. The session will also highlight various activities of the secretariat to support the capacities and institutions building in the Asia-Pacific LLDCs

Presentations by the ESCAP Secretariat

• Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section

Discussants:

- Syed Nuruzzaman, International Consultant
- Odbayar Erdenetsogt, Interim Director, International think-tank for LLDCs, Mongolia
- Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal
- Amelia Santos-Paulino, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, Division for Africa, LDCs ad Special Programmes, UNCTAD

Open Discussion

10:15-10:30

Tea/coffee break

10:30-12:00

Session 2: Promoting fundamental transit policy issues

The Asia-Pacific LLDCs face numerous physical and non-physical barriers, notably at border crossings: lack of adequate infrastructure, complicated and cumbersome formalities and procedures, high and numerous charges for entry or transit, lack of coordination among control authorities and various stakeholders, and different technical standards for transport means. The discussion will highlight the importance of enhancing cooperation on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries.

Presentations by the ESCAP Secretariat

- Introduction by Naylin Oo, Economic Affairs Officer, Countries with Special Needs Section
- Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division

Discussants:

- Khojamakhmad Umarov, Head of Macroeconomic Department, Center of Economic Studies, Tajikstan
- M. Yunus, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh
- Don Clarke, International consultant

Open Discussion

12:00-13:00 Lunch break 13:00-14:00 Session 3: Enhancing international trade and trade facilitation and accelerating structural economic transformation Greater integration among Asian LLDCs and into other regional trade and value chains as well as close cooperation with transit countries are vital for increasing their competitiveness, improving connectivity, and ensuring their economic development. In addition, the LLDCs need to fully utilize their export and trade potential by undertaking measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks through. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation. The session will underscore the importance of promoting further exchange of views in order to reduce poverty and achieve economic growth that is rapid, inclusive and sustainable to compensate for the negative externalities of landlockness. Presentations by the ESCAP Secretariat Introduction by Sudip Ranjan Basu, Economic Affairs Officer, Countries with **Special Needs Section** Wittada Anukoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division Tengfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division **Discussants:** Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka Sharofiddin Nazarov, Centre for Economic Research, Uzbekistan WTO (TBC) **Open Discussion** 14:00-15:15 Session 4: Promoting regional integration and cooperation The LLDCs need to work with other countries in the region to foster regional integration and coherent and harmonized regional policies provide an opportunity to improve transit transport connectivity and ensure greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to deepen penetration into regional markets. The session will focus on regional integration and cooperation centered around South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. Presentations by the ESCAP Secretariat Introduction by Yusuke Tateno, Economic Affairs Officer, Countries with Special **Needs Section** • Alberto Isgut, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy Section **Discussants:** Ehsan Shayegan, Founder & CEO of Porsesh Research and Studies Organization, Afghanistan

- Nima Tshering, Lecturer, Institute for Excellence and Development, Bhutan
- Santi Chaisrisawatsuk, Director, Center for Development Economics studies, National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand

Open Discussion

15:15-15:30

Tea/coffee break

15:30-17:30

Special Session: Reviewing the CSN Development Report 2017: Investing in infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable future

The 2017 issue of the CSN Development Report discusses the importance of investing in infrastructure development and maintenance in sustaining inclusive growth and sustainable development outcomes. Infrastructure deficits across and within countries in Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS) are holding back inclusive growth and sustainable development. The discussion, apart from analysis of the current state, will further shed light for targeted policy options, especially for mobilizing resources for infrastructure development and maintenance because of lack of access to long-term financing facilities and institutional arrangements. The discussion will also provide a better understanding of the ways to encourage new regional, subregional and multilateral infrastructure financing institutions and other emerging financial vehicles to enhance access to long-term finance in infrastructure development. The discussions will focus on the following:

- Why infrastructure is important and how it promotes inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- Review the progress and challenges of existing infrastructure development and maintenance, both physical and institutional, focusing on the levels and current trends of five types of infrastructure: transport, energy, water and sanitation, ICT and institutional.
- Review various financing modalities and identify financing sources for each of the three groups of CSN for narrowing their infrastructure financing gaps.
- Implication of building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Presentation by the ESCAP Secretariat

Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section

Open Discussion

预览已结束,完整报告链接和二维码如下:

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5 2066



