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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/76/535/Add.2, para. 7)]

76/217. Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration,¹ the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024² and the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,³

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions [71/239](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/232](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/243](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/233](#) of 19 December 2019 and [75/228](#) of 21 December 2020,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating

¹ Resolution [69/137](#), annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution [74/15](#).



poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement⁴ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁶ while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,⁷ and recognizing the importance of sustainable urban development for landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to pose serious constraints on the overall growth and socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and the need to bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards and, in this regard, the crucial importance of strong national and international partnerships to bridging the gap and enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁶ Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

gender equality with men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed,

Taking note of the declaration of the annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held virtually on 23 September 2021 on the theme “Leaving no one behind: sustainable recovery from COVID-19 in landlocked developing countries and accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the special road map”,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Recognizing that landlocked developing countries are highly dependent on transit countries to access international markets, are particularly vulnerable to cross-border restrictions in combating the spread of COVID-19 and the social and economic impacts of lockdown measures related to it, the health effects of the pandemic, commodity price shocks and a global recession, recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted progress in almost all priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action and increased the challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 as mobility restrictions amplified existing geographical and structural vulnerabilities and that, for landlocked developing countries, the fiscal implications of the pandemic may have led to increased risk of debt distress, limiting their fiscal and policy space for critical investments in a sustainable and inclusive recovery, and recalling the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years adopted by the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries on 23 September 2020,

Recognizing also that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for supporting landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Reaffirming the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and affirming further that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, which builds upon the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,⁸ can drive the social and economic

⁸ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;⁹

2. *Recalls* the convening of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and the high-level Political Declaration, in which all the relevant stakeholders are called upon to commit to the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

4. *Recalls* the convening of the regional review meetings in preparation for the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Euro-Asia region in Bangkok on 11 and 12 February 2019, for the Africa region in Marrakech, Morocco, on 18 and 19 March 2019 and for the Latin America region in Santiago on 11 and 12 June 2019;

5. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to enhance cross-border collaboration by minimizing disruptions to international transport, eliminating trade restrictions and facilitating free movement of, primarily, essential goods such as food, medical supplies and personal protection equipment, consistent with World Trade Organization rules, undertaking coordinated interventions, in particular at the regional level, ensuring the transparency and availability of information about import, export and transit procedures, making use of trade facilitation standards and digital technologies such as the electronic exchange of information and paperless solutions, calls for sustainable, inclusive, affordable and resilient regional and global value chains and transport systems and gender-responsive services to and from landlocked developing countries to help them to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent future disruptions of a similar nature, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy, and invites development partners and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries in implementing the relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;¹⁰

6. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the relevant actions, consistent with national priorities, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

7. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation, and encourages development partners, the

⁹ [A/76/267](#).

¹⁰ Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide technical support, within their respective mandates, to the landlocked developing countries in their efforts to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ into their national development strategies;

8. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, and invites Member States that have not joined the existing conventions to consider the possibility of accession;

9. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, including roads, railroads, inland waterways, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

10. *Encourages* multilateral financial and development institutions and multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make investments in addressing gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure;

11. *Calls for* the full and timely implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and in this regard urges members and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation;

12. *Also calls for* renewed and strengthened partnerships to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports in order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth;

13. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

14. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation are vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and in this regard highlights the importance of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in addressing the needs of countries in special situations;

15. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an

¹¹ Resolution 70/1.

important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

16. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

17. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, with providers of official development assistance reaffirming their respective commitments;

18. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources, including through foreign direct investment, for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹² and the Vienna Programme of Action;

19. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

20. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, receding glaciers, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries towards climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building;

21. *Takes note* of scientific research undertaken by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, encourages the International Think Tank to continue to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

22. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

23. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and

¹² Resolution 69/313, annex.

transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

24. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the outcome of its midterm review and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

25. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, to hold the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024 with the mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and to strengthen partnerships between the landlocked developing countries and transit countries and their development partners; the Conference should be preceded, where necessary, by national- and regional-level reviews, as well as thematic preparations, in the most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner, including input from civil society, private sector and all other stakeholders, underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process, designates the Office of the High Representative as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparatory process, notes that United Nations system organizations, including the resident coordinators and country teams, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide the support necessary in an integrated and coherent manner and actively contribute to the preparatory process and the Conference itself, stresses that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be organized and carried out in the most effective and efficient manner possible, and decides to take a decision, at its seventy-seventh session, on the organizational aspects, including the venue, duration and specific dates, of the Conference and of possible intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings, to be held, in the most effective manner, before the Conference;

26. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the participation of landlocked developing countries in the Conference;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”.

*54th plenary meeting
17 December 2021*