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

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Borg Tsien **Tham** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 22 (see [A/69/471](#), para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 38th meeting, on 11 December 2014. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary record ([A/C.2/69/SR.38](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/69/L.43](#) and [A/C.2/69/L.66](#)

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries" ([A/C.2/69/L.43](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which called upon all relevant stakeholders to commit to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol [A/69/471](#) and Add.1 and 2.



“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 by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

“Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

“Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled ‘The future we want’,

“Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

“Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries, and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

“Reaffirming the urgent need for an innovative, holistic and results-oriented 10 year programme of action, based on renewed and strengthened partnerships, to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

“Taking note of the communiqué of the Thirteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2014,

“Taking note also of the report of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,

“1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled ‘Ten-year review of the implementation of 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’;

“2. Calls upon the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the commitments that have been agreed in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 in its six priority areas, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation,

regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent, and expeditious manner;

“3. *Also calls upon* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

“4. *Further calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to provide targeted technical and financial support towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Programme of Action;

“5. *Calls upon* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, and to provide greater support to the landlocked developing countries for the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates;

“6. *Invites* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

“7. *Also invites* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries;

“8. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of the Vienna Programme of Action and the need to give due consideration to the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

“9. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

“10. *Stresses* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its role of ensuring coordinated follow up and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels and to mobilize international support and resources for its implementation, and, towards this end, continue its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of landlocked developing countries, and that the Office of the High Representative, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, within their existing mandates, should also develop relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action;

“11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

“12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the agenda item entitled ‘Groups of countries in special situations’, a sub-item entitled ‘Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries’.”

3. At its 38th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries” ([A/C.2/69/L.66](#)), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Borg Tsian Tham (Singapore), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.43](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.66](#) had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the facilitator (Paraguay), the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.66](#) (see para. 7). After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Zambia on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (see [A/C.2/69/SR.38](#)).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.66](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.43](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,¹ adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

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 by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document³ and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,⁴

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁵

Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration⁶ and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New

¹ *Report of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, Vienna, 3-5 November 2014.*

² Resolution 55/2.

³ Resolution 65/1.

⁴ Resolution 68/6.

⁵ Resolution 66/288, annex

⁶ *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 II.*

Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,⁷

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries, and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

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

Taking note of the communiqué of the Thirteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2014,

Taking note also of the report of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,¹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Ten-year review of the implementation of 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

2. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024¹ in its six priority areas, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

3. *Invites* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Invites* the 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;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration

⁷ Ibid., annex I.

⁸ [A/69/170](#).

organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

6. *Invites* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to give appropriate consideration to the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

10. *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 will ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, and also stresses that the Office, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth 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".