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**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second  
United Nations Conference on landlocked developing countries**

## **Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution [76/217](#), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. Based on inputs from more than 25 international and regional organizations as well as statistical data from secondary sources, the report provides a review of progress made in the implementation of the priorities of the Programme of Action.

The adverse global economic conditions, including stalled growth, surging inflation, rising energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions and elevated shipping and trade costs, are noted in the report as constraining the ability of landlocked developing countries to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Such constraints have been exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and its consequences. Also noted is the low rate of vaccination against COVID-19 in landlocked developing countries as well as the limited progress in alleviating the long-term challenges of trade and transit bottlenecks, pandemic-related border-crossing constraints, climate change vulnerability, unsustainable debt and natural resource dependency.

The report highlights the progress made by United Nations organizations and other international and regional organizations in supporting landlocked developing countries, in particular regarding the implementation of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years, and provides policy recommendations to foster a sustainable recovery. The full engagement of all stakeholders in the preparatory process for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in 2024, is encouraged.

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\* [A/77/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on recent progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review. The update is presented against the backdrop of global economic headwinds due to slowing growth, rising inflation, high sovereign debt levels and volatile commodity prices, which have been compounding the negative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the landlocked developing countries. The report also highlights the progress made on the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years and activities undertaken by the entities of the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

2. The report is based on submissions made by 25 international and regional organizations; the full text of inputs received is available on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States ([www.un.org/ohrlls/content/un-inter-agency-work-lllcs](http://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/un-inter-agency-work-lllcs)). The report is also based on statistical data from secondary sources contained in the annex.

## II. Overview of socioeconomic development in landlocked developing countries

3. The 32 landlocked developing countries contend with many development challenges due to a lack of direct territorial access to the sea and significant distance from world markets. Their fragile recovery from the pandemic has been interrupted in the face of the difficult geopolitical and global macroeconomic outlook, whose effect on the landlocked developing countries is exacerbated by their structural conditions. Tepid global economic growth, rising inflation, skyrocketing shipping costs, supply chain disruptions and elevated food and fuel costs are all compounding their trade- and transit-related vulnerabilities. For instance, the international road transport sector – their principal means of international trade – which had already been hit hard by the pandemic, with trucks delayed by border-crossing-point closures or other controls, is now contending with high fuel prices. Data on transit corridors show that border delays in 2020 reversed some of the reductions in transit time achieved before the pandemic and that the current global economic conditions are likely to prolong the adverse situation.

4. Such challenges have also obstructed progress towards poverty alleviation, with the global poverty rate increasing from 8.3 per cent in 2019 to 9.2 per cent in 2020 (see [E/2022/55](#)). The proportion of the population in landlocked developing countries living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day is estimated at about 25 per cent (2015–2020).<sup>1</sup> Food insecurity also worsened in landlocked developing countries. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the total population of such countries increased from 44.5 per cent in the period 2014–2016 to 53.8 per cent in the period 2019–2021.<sup>2</sup> While the pandemic-related border restrictions and lockdowns constrained the transport of food, the increased world market prices resulting from the conflict in Ukraine are also affecting landlocked developing countries that depend on imported foodstuffs and fertilizers.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>.

<sup>2</sup> FAO and others, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agricultural Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable* (Rome, 2022).

5. Unemployment in landlocked developing countries increased from 4.6 per cent in 2015 to 5.7 per cent in 2021, while social protection system coverage remained limited. In 2020, the proportion of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit was 19.6 per cent compared with the world average of 46.9 per cent. That same year, the proportion of persons with disabilities covered by social protection floors was only 16.9 per cent, compared with 33.5 per cent worldwide.<sup>3</sup>

6. Landlocked developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change, and current global economic challenges are limiting their ability to invest in adaptation and mitigation. Desertification, biodiversity loss, melting glaciers, recurrent droughts, land degradation and other disasters are imposing profound economic and social costs, especially as many landlocked developing countries are highly reliant on natural resources and agriculture. At the end of 2021, 22 landlocked developing countries reported to the Sendai Framework monitor that they had national disaster risk reduction strategies in place, an increase from 19 countries in 2020. As at 27 June 2022, 24 landlocked developing countries had endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, committing to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

7. There are notable disparities regarding water and sanitation within landlocked developing countries, including between rural and urban areas. The proportion of the population using basic sanitation services in 2020 was 34.9 per cent in rural areas compared with 61.7 per cent in urban areas, while the proportion of the population using basic drinking water services in 2020 was 57.1 per cent in rural areas compared with 90.9 per cent in urban areas.<sup>4</sup>

8. Landlocked developing countries made progress on almost all health indicators until 2019, but the pandemic affected this progress, including because of weak health-care systems, insufficient access to COVID-19 vaccines, high trade and transportation costs and unpredictable transit restrictions. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 in landlocked developing countries more than tripled between April 2021 and April 2022, to 157,000 deaths, and only 26 per cent of the population was fully vaccinated at the end of April 2022 compared with 59 per cent worldwide.<sup>5</sup>

9. While there had been improvement on some indicators relating to quality education in landlocked developing countries over the past 15 years, the pandemic caused major disruptions. The schools in 29 of the 32 countries were fully closed for an average of 20 weeks between March 2020 and November 2021.<sup>6</sup> While schools have mostly reopened, costs in terms of learning losses persist, especially in countries in which a lack of digital infrastructure limited e-learning options.

10. The proportion of landlocked developing countries with independent national human rights institutions increased from 34.4 per cent in 2015 to 43.8 per cent in 2021.<sup>7</sup> Progress was reported on several gender equality indicators until 2020 (see E/2022/55), but a substantial gender gap persists, particularly regarding employment, food security and Internet use.

<sup>3</sup> See E/2022/55, statistical annex, available at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2022/E\\_2022\\_55\\_Statistical\\_Annex\\_I\\_and\\_II.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2022/E_2022_55_Statistical_Annex_I_and_II.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://data.covid19taskforce.com/data/tables>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://covid19.uis.unesco.org/global-monitoring-school-closures-covid19/>.

<sup>7</sup> See E/2022/55, statistical annex.

### III. Status of implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action

#### Priority 1: fundamental transit policy issues

11. Pandemic-related restrictions on cross-border and transit freight transportation resulted in major trade bottlenecks, engendering high costs, supply chain disruptions and increased transportation times for landlocked developing countries. In Africa, cargo transit times worsened on all routes along the Northern Corridor, increasing along the Mombasa-Malaba route from 7 days in the first quarter of 2020 to 11 days by the second quarter and remaining relatively high in the third quarter.<sup>8</sup> In Asia, all major road transport indicators of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme corridors deteriorated between 2019 and 2020. The average border-crossing time increased to 15.1 hours in 2020 from 12.2 hours in 2019. Average truck speed (without delays) decreased to 42.9 km per hour from 43.6 km per hour.<sup>9</sup> Low levels of digitalization and automation in border crossings between landlocked developing countries and transit neighbours contributed to the high impact of pandemic-related transport restrictions.

12. A recent report by the World Trade Organization (WTO)<sup>10</sup> confirms that the main obstacles to trade for landlocked developing countries are transport costs and non-tariff barriers. Constraints in shipping-container transport often result in the unloading or reloading of cargo in ports or along borders, leading to delays, increased costs and a risk of deterioration of goods. Rising fuel costs are further constraining container-shipping capacity, resulting in higher transport costs for landlocked developing countries, especially those in Central Asia.

13. Over the reporting period, many landlocked developing countries and transit countries gradually lifted pandemic-related restrictions, depending on epidemiological conditions, and implemented coordinated responses to ensure that cross-border trade and transport could continue safely and efficiently. However, outbreaks of new COVID-19 variants continue to threaten a sustainable recovery. The pandemic has drawn attention to the urgent need to scale up digital solutions for transport processes and establish priority or green lanes for faster clearance; an electronic permit system for international freight road transport; and remote electronic customs control using navigation seals and smart containers. According to the Economic Commission for Europe, the provisions providing the legal basis for the complete digitalization of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets entered into force in May 2021.

14. In Africa, regional economic communities have developed transport, cross-border transit and trade facilitation regulations aligned with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and World Health Organization health guidelines, which have allowed for more streamlined regional mobility. In Asia, member countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme continue to cooperate on facilitating safe trade. The World Customs Organization (WCO) has developed guidelines and provided capacity-building support on disaster management and supply chain continuity to support customs administrations worldwide.

<sup>8</sup> Economic Commission for Africa, TradeMark East Africa and African Economic Research Consortium, *Waving or Drowning? The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on East African Trade* (2021).

<sup>9</sup> Asian Development Bank, *CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring Annual Report 2020: The Coronavirus Disease and Its Impact* (2021).

<sup>10</sup> Raúl Torres and others, *Easing Trade Bottlenecks in Landlocked Developing Countries* (Geneva, WTO, 2021).

15. The pandemic underscored the need for transit systems to be both efficient and resilient to shocks. To enhance resilience, landlocked developing countries could promote the digitization of border management measures and enhanced implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and other agreements that promote transit, as well as record accurate data to keep track of trade bottlenecks and costs.

## **Priority 2: infrastructure development and maintenance**

16. The pandemic continued to affect the development of transport, information and communications technology (ICT) and energy infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, underscoring the importance of infrastructure development for post-pandemic recovery plans. A majority of landlocked developing countries have integrated infrastructure projects into their economic recovery plans, but their implementation remains uncertain as global economic challenges intensify resource constraints.

17. In Africa, landlocked developing countries have expanded and upgraded transport infrastructure, but they still face major obstacles in developing viable, predictable transport systems. Still lacking is adequate physical infrastructure in rail, road and air transport, dry ports, inland waterways and pipelines. The infrastructure deficit and high cost of logistics constitute major constraints to the growth of landlocked developing countries in Africa and to the full realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

18. In Asia, low-quality road infrastructure and maintenance as well as missing links in railway networks between Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries continue to hamper efficient transit connectivity and reduce the ability to harness the benefits of regional and global trade networks. The development of intermodal transport infrastructure remains a high priority for Asian landlocked developing countries, as reflected by their increased participation in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

19. The data on the status of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network for landlocked developing countries show that only 8 per cent of roads in those countries are classified as primary or class I compared with 35 per cent for the entire network. For railways, despite progress made, including the recently completed 414-km Boten-Vientiane railway, there are still approximately 12,000 km of missing links along the 118,000 km of the Trans-Asian Railway network. Many countries in the region are investing in intermodal logistics facilities. For example, Kazakhstan is investing \$84 million to establish railway terminals to enhance container-handling capacity, with a view to increasing handling capacity to 1 million 20-foot equivalent units over the period 2021–2024.

20. In the Latin American region, Paraguay has completed more than 275 km of missing links for the bioceanic corridor, designed as a land link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The Plurinational State of Bolivia was invited to join the project, which already includes such transit countries as Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

21. Prior to the pandemic, air transport accounted for 2.7 million jobs and \$20.9 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) in landlocked developing countries and every person directly employed in the aviation and tourism sectors supported 16 jobs in other sectors. Restoring air connectivity is critical for a sustainable recovery for landlocked developing countries, since it supports tourism, trade and other vital business activities. Reaffirming the importance of air connectivity, at least nine landlocked developing countries have received International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) implementation packages, which are aimed at assisting States, in the short term, to address pandemic recovery efforts and, in the medium and long

term, to support the implementation of new ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.

22. The pandemic demonstrated the importance of digital technologies and accelerated their adoption. However, in 2021, the Internet usage rate in landlocked developing countries was only 34.7 per cent, far below the world average of 63 per cent. In 2020, such countries recorded major increases in subscriptions for active mobile broadband (37 per 100 inhabitants) and mobile-cellular telephone (79 per 100 inhabitants) and a small increase in subscriptions for fixed-broadband (3 per 100 inhabitants). By that year, 53 per cent of the population in landlocked developing countries had access to the fourth generation technology standard for cellular networks, 31 per cent to the third generation and 10 per cent to the second generation compared with a world average of 84.7 per cent, 8.5 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively. High costs and limited affordability are key reasons for such limited broadband access. To enhance connectivity, several landlocked developing countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Niger, Rwanda, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe, are involved in such projects as Giga, a joint initiative of the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Telecommunication Union to connect all schools in the world to the Internet.

23. The average proportion of the population with access to electricity in landlocked developing countries increased from 58 per cent in 2019 to 59.5 per cent in 2020. A large disparity persists between urban (87 per cent) and rural areas (47 per cent). Progress on access to clean cooking fuels and technologies is slow and was estimated at 27 per cent in 2020, much lower than the world average of 69 per cent. Many landlocked developing countries face challenges in last-mile electrification, including a lack of project finance, infrastructure investment and sustainable business models as well as operational inefficiencies, resulting in low revenue and the bypassing of rural customers in electrification projects. Technological innovation and advancement in business models combined with falling costs have supported the global uptake of renewables. Renewable energy capacity in landlocked developing countries increased from 37 per cent of the total final energy consumption in 2000 to 44 per cent in 2020. The increase is due mostly to the development of hydropower in countries with abundant hydropower resources (e.g. Bhutan, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Tajikistan and Zambia).

### **Priority 3: international trade and trade facilitation**

24. The pandemic had a devastating impact on trade in landlocked developing countries, with their merchandise exports declining by 11.2 per cent in 2020 compared with a decrease of 7.4 per cent for the rest of the world and 5.8 per cent for developing countries as a whole. Their merchandise imports also declined by 9.3 per cent compared with the average global decrease of 7.6 per cent. However, estimates of global merchandise trade indicate a strong rebound in 2021, with expectations that it will have surpassed pre-pandemic levels by 11 per cent. Trade in landlocked developing countries is also estimated to have rebounded in 2021, with their merchandise exports estimated to have grown by 28.9 per cent year-on-year, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. However, that growth was driven mainly by increasing commodity prices and demand, which continue in 2022. More than three quarters of landlocked developing countries are dependent on export commodities, and a sustainable increase in their exports would depend on export diversification and a shift to manufactured goods. Their merchandise exports as a share of global trade remained at only 0.98 per cent in 2021. The Programme of Action objective of significantly increasing their participation in global trade therefore remains largely unmet.

25. The services trade in landlocked developing countries was also greatly affected by the pandemic, registering a decline of 35 per cent compared with a 20 per cent decline at the global level and a 25.8 per cent decline for developing countries as a whole. The highly concentrated nature of commercial services in landlocked developing countries renders the sector vulnerable. According to WTO, the travel sector accounted for 40 per cent of services exports prior to the pandemic, while transport services accounted for 37 per cent. In 2020, pandemic-related restrictions resulted in a 66 per cent drop in the travel exports of landlocked developing countries and a 19 per cent decrease in their transport services exports, with both receding to 2015–2016 levels.<sup>11</sup> In 2021, there were 1 billion fewer international tourist arrivals globally than pre-pandemic, a 72 per cent decrease from 2019. For landlocked developing countries, the decline from 2019 was even more significant, at 79 per cent.<sup>12</sup>

26. Rising cross-border e-commerce presents an opportunity for landlocked developing countries to integrate into global trade. The pandemic has had a positive impact on global e-commerce sales, which are estimated to have increased by 16.3 per cent between 2020 and 2021, yet digital infrastructure and policies to support e-commerce and the digital economy remain challenges for many landlocked developing countries.

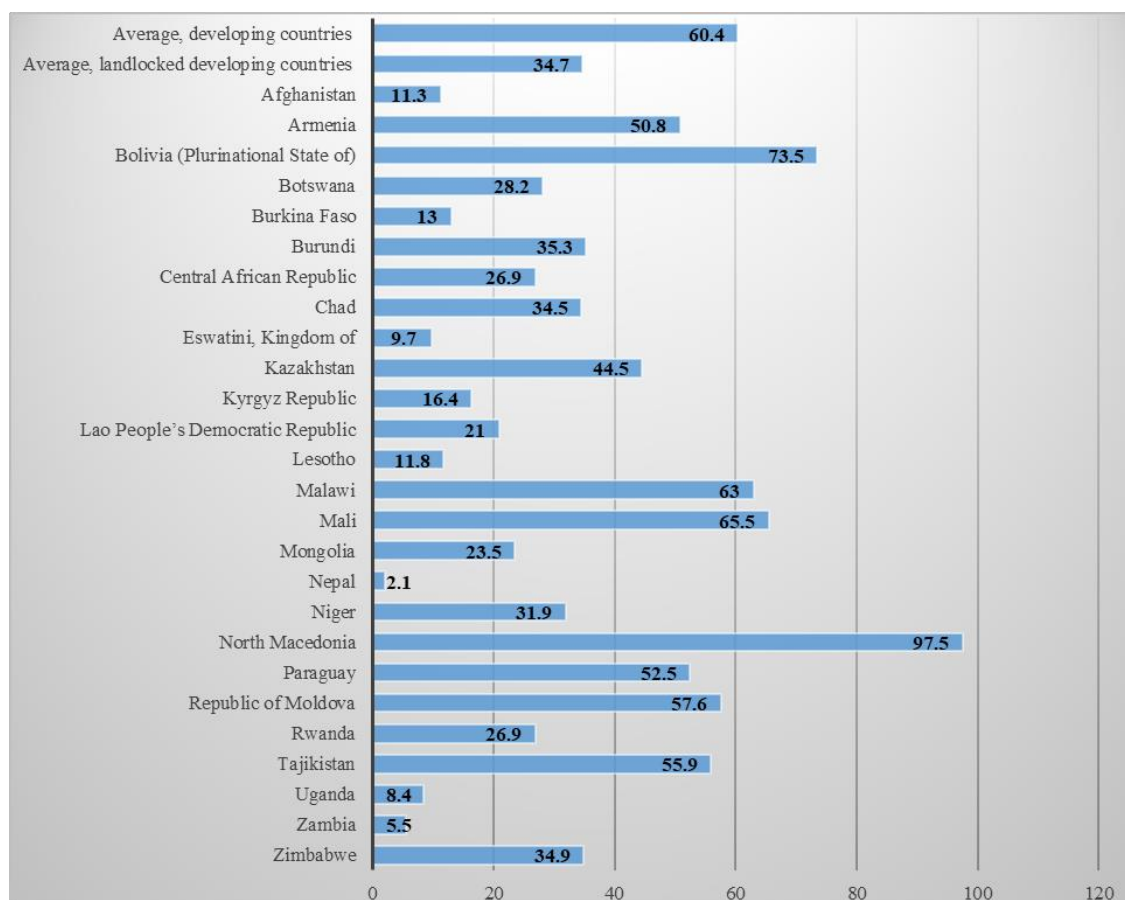
27. Landlocked developing countries continue to face relatively high trade costs, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. Significant pandemic-related shocks in supply and demand have resulted in bottlenecks to the container supply chain, leading to a shortage of empty containers in landlocked developing countries and disruption of the supply chain.

28. The implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is fundamental to addressing high trade costs and facilitating trade in landlocked developing countries, especially in the light of current global trade and supply chain disruptions. The Agreement contains several provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and easing trade bottlenecks at borders. Despite the importance of the Agreement to landlocked developing countries, the rate of commitment implementation by those countries lags behind the world average, at 34 per cent compared with 60 per cent for developing countries as a whole (see figure I). It is estimated that transit countries have implemented 64.7 per cent of all commitments.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022* (New York, 2022).

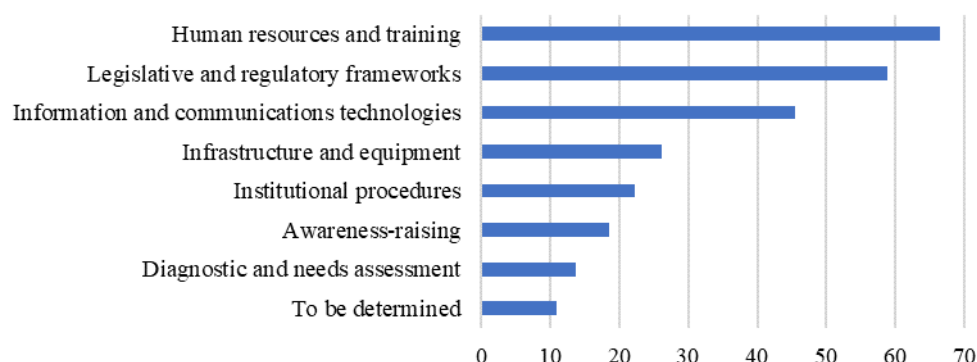
**Figure I**  
**Current rate of commitment implementation in category A**  
 (Percentage)



Source: World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement Database.

29. Landlocked developing countries have flagged about 31 per cent of their commitments under the Agreement as needing technical assistance for implementation, with the areas of human resources and training, legislative and regulatory frameworks, ICT and infrastructure and equipment requiring the greatest support (see figure II).

Figure II  
**Type of technical assistance requested by landlocked developing countries**  
 (Percentage)



Source: World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement Database.

30. Achieving efficient transit is fundamental for the development of landlocked developing countries. The Agreement sets out provisions to facilitate the transit of goods through a country. WTO members are obliged to reduce or eliminate regulations or formalities in connection with traffic in transit and to restrict fees or charges to transportation costs or to the cost of services rendered. The rate of implementation of the transit provisions by transit countries stands at 60 per cent, demonstrating that more remains to be done to reduce transit time and costs.

31. The decision issued at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, instructing the Trade Facilitation Committee to hold a dedicated session on transit issues annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed, will contribute to enhancing reforms aimed at facilitating transit. Finding solutions to achieve efficient transit during the sessions is key.

#### **Priority 4: regional integration and cooperation**

32. The progress of landlocked developing countries on regional integration has advanced. On average, each country is party to 4 regional trade agreements, with the number of agreements per country ranging from 1 to 11. The landlocked developing countries also continue to promote regional integration and cooperation regarding transboundary issues through existing partnerships with neighbouring countries.

33. The African Continental Free Trade Area offers an opportunity for African landlocked developing countries to build back better and enhance resilience amid an uncertain global environment. According to the Economic Commission for Africa, the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area would increase the GDP of Africa by 0.5 per cent, exports by 5.1 per cent, imports by 4.7 per cent and welfare by 0.4 per cent by 2045. The projected gains can be realized only by translating the provision of the Agreement into national and regional frameworks and timely implementation. The Agreement is also expected to lead to a 28 per cent increase in intra-African freight demand by 2030: demand for road, rail, maritime and air freight is projected to rise by 22 per cent, 8 per cent, 62 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, while the modal share of rail should increase from 0.3 per cent to 7 per cent. However, Africa will require close to 2 million additional trucks, more than 100,000 rail wagons, 250 aircraft and more than 100 vessels by 2030 if the Agreement is to be fully implemented. As of May 2022, 54 of the 55 States members of the African Union had signed the Agreement, including all landlocked

developing countries. By the same date, 43 countries had ratified the Agreement, including 14 landlocked developing countries.

34. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia is a unique platform for cooperation among landlocked developing countries in the subregion of North and Central Asia. In the outcome document<sup>13</sup> of the 2021 United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Economic Forum, held in Tashkent, in a hybrid format, on 17 and 18 November 2021, the need to reinforce regional economic cooperation was noted, with a focus on productive sectors and green technologies. The countries of the subregion committed to strengthened cooperation on measures to maintain undisrupted supply chains and international transport through seamless, contactless and collaborative solutions.

35. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement among the 15 Asia-Pacific countries, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, entered into force in January 2022.

36. Heads of the customs administrations of the 11 Latin American countries, including the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay, met in May 2022 to sign a regional mutual recognition agreement of the authorized economic operator programme. The agreement is an important step in improving integration in the region by facilitating mutual market access through the elimination of duplicative certification and requirements.

#### **Priority 5: structural economic transformation**

37. Progress towards structural economic transformation, which was already limited in most landlocked developing countries, remained slow because of the pandemic, and its prospects are uncertain owing to the economic challenges on the horizon. The value added contribution of the manufacturing sector in landlocked developing countries increased to 11 per cent of GDP in 2020 from 10 per cent in 2019.<sup>14</sup> The share of manufactured goods in merchandise exports has remained below 20 per cent, despite efforts to bring about structural change. In 2020, the share of manufactured goods in merchandise exports was 17.7 per cent, increasing marginally from 16.3 per cent in 2019 (see figure III). Although the value added contribution of services to GDP was higher (47.2 per cent in 2020), it was well below the global average of 56 per cent.

38. The agriculture sector continues to provide the most employment in landlocked developing countries, accounting for 45 per cent of employment, on average. The value added contribution of the agriculture sector increased from 17.2 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 18.5 per cent in 2020.<sup>15</sup> Agricultural exports increased marginally in value between 2019 and 2020, from \$24.1 billion to \$24.3 billion, despite a decrease in cumulative exports. Yet exports of processed agricultural commodities are still low, highlighting the need for landlocked developing countries to modernize agriculture and strengthen integration in regional and global agro-value chains.

39. In 2020, primary commodities accounted for 82 per cent of merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries, on average, and for more than 60 per cent of merchandise exports from 24 of the 32 countries. Commodities accounted for less

<sup>13</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Decisions%20of%20the%2016th%20session%20of%20the%20SPECA%20Governing%20Council\\_ENG.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Decisions%20of%20the%2016th%20session%20of%20the%20SPECA%20Governing%20Council_ENG.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> World Bank, "Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP) – world", World Development Indicators database. Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.IND.MANF.ZS?locations=1W> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

<sup>15</sup> World Bank, "Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)", World Development Indicators database. Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

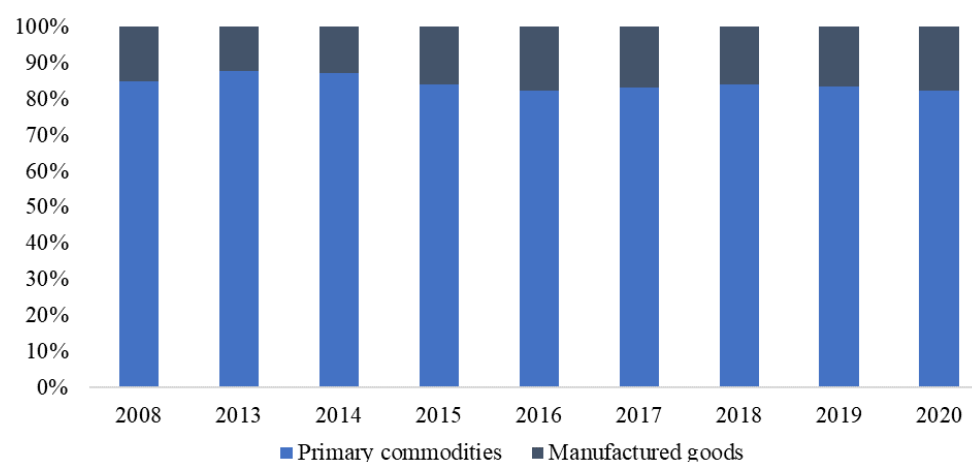
than 50 per cent of merchandise exports in only six landlocked developing countries. One encouraging sign, however, is the decrease in the concentration index of exports from 0.277 in 2019 to 0.233 in 2020. A lower concentration index is reflective of a greater diversity of exports and is critical for sustaining structural economic transformation, increasing value addition and building economic resilience. However, significant work needs to be done to catch up with developed regions, which have a concentration index of 0.063.

40. Increasing ICT exports is crucial for the structural transformation of landlocked developing countries, since they can help to overcome geography-related disadvantages. However, the share of ICT goods in total exports in landlocked developing countries is not only extremely low (0.20 per cent in 2020) but has also been declining steadily since 2016, when it was 0.67 per cent. By comparison, for developing countries, ICT exports account for 26.5 per cent of all exports, on average. Medium-skill and technology-intensive manufacturing exports from landlocked developing countries decreased marginally in 2020, in absolute terms, to \$5.4 billion from \$6 billion, but increased slightly as a percentage of total merchandise exports (from 3.1 cent in 2019 to 3.2 per cent in 2020). Similarly, high-skill and technology-intensive manufacturing exports decreased to \$10 billion in 2020 from \$10.3 billion in 2019, even as they increased in relative terms as a percentage of total merchandise exports (from 5.4 per cent in 2019 to 5.9 per cent in 2020).<sup>16</sup>

Figure III

### Share of primary commodities and manufactured goods in merchandise exports

(Percentage)



Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

### Priority 6: means of implementation

41. In response to the pandemic, official development assistance (ODA) to landlocked developing countries rose significantly in 2020, to \$37.2 billion from \$32.5 billion in 2019, a 14.5 per cent increase. The countries also received \$8.1 billion in non-concessional flows from members of the Development Assistance Committee

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "Merchandise trade matrix in thousands United States dollars, annual, 2016–2021", UNCTADStat database. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=217476> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>17</sup> ODA flows continue to be concentrated in a few landlocked developing countries. In 2020, the top five ODA recipients<sup>18</sup> accounted for 45 per cent of ODA to the group. Amid global economic headwinds, rising commodity prices and the recommencement of debt servicing, ODA will be a key source of financing for landlocked developing countries for investing in a sustainable recovery.

42. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to landlocked developing countries increased by 31 per cent, from \$14.1 billion in 2020 to \$18.5 billion in 2021. The increase came against the backdrop of a 61 per cent recovery in global FDI flows, to \$1.6 trillion. UNCTAD has also indicated that the number of greenfield project announcements, an indication of future FDI trends, increased by 26 per cent to 173. However, this was due largely to a higher number of announcements for natural resource sectors. International project finance deals increased by 46 per cent, to 76 projects. More than half (41) were in renewable energy, but other sectors, including mining, power generation and infrastructure, were also prominent. In 2022, the environment for FDI and other private sector cross-border flows will be challenging, given the global macroeconomic and geopolitical conditions. The role and preparedness of investment promotion agencies will be critical for building sustained momentum for increased investment.

43. In 2021, landlocked developing countries received \$40.8 billion in remittances, an increase of 8.8 per cent from 2020.<sup>19</sup> Inward remittances in the countries are higher than both FDI inflows and ODA. On average, remittances account for 7.7 per cent of GDP in landlocked developing countries. For some countries, remittances account for an extremely high share of external receipts. For example, among the top five global recipients of remittances, when measuring as a share of GDP, are Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, where, in 2021, remittances amounted to 31 per cent and 27 per cent of external receipts, respectively.<sup>20</sup> Disruptions to remittance inflows due to challenging global macroeconomic conditions and the war in Ukraine<sup>21</sup> threaten to derail recovery from the pandemic at both the macro and household levels for landlocked developing countries.

44. External debt levels increased from an average of 58.1 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 64 per cent in 2020 in landlocked developing countries,<sup>22</sup> nine of which are classified as being at high risk of debt distress and one as debt distressed. Average total debt servicing came down significantly in 2020, to 17.4 per cent of export revenues compared with 28 per cent in 2019. However, this was due largely to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, established by the Group of 20. The culmination of the Initiative, in December 2021, and its replacement by the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative have resulted in the commencement of debt servicing for the landlocked developing countries despite challenging external financing conditions. The three countries that had requested support under the Common Framework by the first quarter of 2022 were landlocked

<sup>17</sup> OECD, "Countries and territories most in need", Development Finance Data database. Available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/countries-most-in-need.htm> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

<sup>18</sup> The top five recipients of official development assistance among the landlocked developing countries are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nepal, the Niger and Uganda.

<sup>19</sup> World Bank, "Remittances data", Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development database. Available at <https://www.knomad.org/data/remittances> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> For example, more than 50 per cent of remittances in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are received from the Russian Federation.

<sup>22</sup> World Bank, "International debt statistics", Debt Statistics database. Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/debt-statistics/ids> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

developing countries, but they faced delays in receiving support and had to continue servicing debt obligations in the interim. Landlocked developing countries need long-term support to improve debt sustainability and to create financing space for investing in a sustainable recovery.

#### **IV. Support by the United Nations and international organizations: road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, follow-up and review**

45. In its resolutions [74/233](#), [75/228](#) and [76/217](#), the General Assembly called for the United Nations and international and regional organizations to support landlocked developing countries in their implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. On the basis of inputs provided by the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Landlocked Developing Countries, the present section highlights the efforts undertaken to provide such support over the reporting period, including to carry out the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action.

46. The 430 initiatives undertaken by members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group under the road map provide evidence of efforts directed towards the six priority areas of the Programme of Action as well as other issues, including climate change, disaster risk reduction and gender equality. In total, approximately 100 initiatives were newly reported this year, with approximately one quarter reported as completed.

47. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States continued to coordinate activities of the United Nations system, including organizing meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. The Office completed a project to strengthen the capacity of landlocked developing countries to promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, conducting training workshops for those countries as well as transit countries on developing bankable transport infrastructure projects and building resilient transport infrastructure.

48. The Office also organized a virtual workshop on developing successful public-private partnerships for transport infrastructure in Botswana. In collaboration with partners, it organized a meeting to raise awareness of the impact of climate change and COVID-19 and on responses for a sustainable recovery. It established a network of national focal points from landlocked developing countries to facilitate national-level implementation of the Programme of Action and developed knowledge products, including on scaling up renewables in landlocked developing countries, in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency, and on leveraging global value chains for development.

49. In March 2022, the Development Coordination Office organized a survey on the coordination role of the resident coordinator system in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The responses showed that the system was making welcomed efforts to integrate the Programme into common country analyses and cooperation frameworks and to coordinate strategic initiatives around the Programme, with increased momentum evident since the launch of the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

50. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is supporting landlocked developing countries in expanding energy access and renewable energy and in developing national road maps for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7. In addition to providing capacity-building on trade facilitation for stakeholders from Azerbaijan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Nepal, the

Commission assisted several landlocked developing countries in joining the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and provided technical assistance to Mongolia in expediting the implementation of projects under the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor.

51. In 2021, the Economic Commission for Africa supported landlocked developing countries in Africa in developing transport infrastructure, enhancing their connectivity and promoting renewable energy. It conducted studies on the cost of transit operations and on the digitalization of transport infrastructure in the post-pandemic era, including in landlocked developing countries. In collaboration with partners, it supported several landlocked developing countries in developing strategies to implement the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Together with the United Nations Global Compact, the Commission launched the African Continental Free Trade Area country business index report in May 2022.

52. The Economic Commission for Europe is providing tailor-made capacity-building, policy review and advice to its nine landlocked developing country members. With partners, it completed a capacity-building project in the region on the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note. The Commission also conducted a study on the implementation in the subregion of the principles of sustainable trade of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

53. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean worked on indicators for inland waterway transport and ports. It issued a national connectivity report for Paraguay; supported the Plurinational State of Bolivia on energy efficiency and structural change; promoted the adoption of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean; and issued publications on vaccine logistics.

54. UNCTAD provided technical assistance on trade facilitation and transit to 20 landlocked developing countries and 16 transit developing countries. The entity also supported Botswana, Kazakhstan and Rwanda on e-commerce and provided technical assistance on science, technology and innovation to Botswana, Uganda and Zambia. It also supported the automation of customs clearance processes using the Automated System for Customs Data. The System was operating or being implemented in 20 landlocked developing countries at the end of 2021. UNCTAD provided substantive support towards the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, including in 16 landlocked developing countries. In 2021, the organization launched the productive capacities index, provided follow-up technical assistance on investment policy reviews to several landlocked developing countries and continued to support 18 landlocked developing countries through the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System.

55. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is assisting landlocked developing countries, including through capacity-building and research, including on cross-border logistics and transit transport; trade facilitation; energy efficiency and access; private sector development; diversification and value addition; resource mobilization; trade statistics; agriculture; environmental sustainability; and climate change. In the period 2020–2021, the Department delivered statistical capacity-development support in most landlocked developing countries. In 2021, it also completed a project on climate vulnerability for Ethiopia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

56. The Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology is working with partners to implement the Road Map for Digital Cooperation in such areas as global connectivity and digital capacity-building.

57. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supported Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in establishing national disaster loss databases. It provided policy and technical support to Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Nepal to develop disaster risk reduction status reports. The Office also assisted local authorities in several landlocked developing countries in conducting assessments of disaster resilience in cities and worked on issues relating to disaster risk reduction financing with Ethiopia, Nepal and Zambia.

58. The Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries is carrying out technology needs assessments in seven landlocked developing countries. It is also supporting start-ups that leverage technology-based solutions and establishing technology makers labs to provide young people with an opportunity to develop their science, technology and innovation skills.

59. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has continued to help landlocked developing countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. In 2021, 30 landlocked developing countries had undertaken at least one measure to embark on the process of formulating and implementing a national adaptation plan, following the technical guidelines established by the secretariat. Out of the 30 countries, 23 are each accessing \$3 million in funding from the Green Climate Fund readiness support programme for the formulation of national adaptation plans.

60. In 2021, the United Nations Development Programme assisted landlocked developing countries on trade integration, South-South cooperation and resource mobilization. It is also providing technical support to 11 landlocked developing countries in Africa on implementing integrated financing frameworks and to Botswana, South Sudan and Uganda on advancing Sustainable Development Goal budgeting.

61. In 2021, the United Nations Environment Programme provided technical support to eight landlocked developing countries in Africa to foster stronger regional integration in their common country analyses; provided capacity-building support to national institutions and United Nations country teams in landlocked developing countries to integrate the environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and cooperation frameworks; and supported eight landlocked developing countries in integrating climate resilience into cooperation frameworks.

62. The International Trade Centre continued to provide technical assistance to landlocked developing countries to address trade-related constraints. Through the "Ready4Trade" project, the Centre is supporting the development of intraregional and international trade in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Centre is also providing support to South Sudan to improve value chains and increase the competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

63. The International Telecommunication Union contributed to strengthening ICT infrastructure in several landlocked developing countries; worked towards digital inclusion and innovation, including by supporting the development of online multimedia ICT courses and training centres in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; and supported digital transformation centres to help to strengthen digital skills in Rwanda and Zambia.

64. FAO assisted 14 landlocked developing countries on research, extension and agricultural innovation systems and promoted a hybrid model of Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Business Schools in Azerbaijan and Malawi to better link production and marketing. It also supports three programmes that help to address food insecurity in

the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel: the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the Great Green Wall initiative and the Sahel Integrated Resilience Programme.

65. ICAO has implemented technical cooperation projects, including the deployment of implementation packages to support landlocked developing countries in addressing needs relating to the movement of goods and the health of passengers during the pandemic.

66. In 2021, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization continued the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in landlocked developing countries, including through its Programme for Country Partnership. New national-level initiatives on skills training, quality infrastructure and waste management were implemented, as were regional initiatives on value chains.

67. The United Nations Office for Project Services continued to assist landlocked developing countries in many areas of the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including, in Paraguay, infrastructure improvement for two agricultural schools; the development of family farming; and the procurement of equipment to address continuous drought and water shortage in vulnerable communities. It also helped several landlocked developing countries to respond to the pandemic through the capacity strengthening of health structures and the procurement of medical equipment.

68. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation supported landlocked developing countries through knowledge sharing, partnership and technology transfer as well as projects on sustainable agriculture development; national statistical systems strengthening; climate change; COVID-19 impacts; and gender equality.

69. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported landlocked developing countries in census preparation, following delays due to the pandemic, and established initiatives aimed at youth development to address the demographic dividend. The programmatic focus of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2022–2025, includes 15 landlocked developing countries.

70. The World Tourism Organization continues to support landlocked developing countries through technical cooperation, capacity-building and technical assistance in the areas of tourism statistics, sustainable tourism and pandemic recovery.

71. The World Intellectual Property Organization is providing technical assistance and support to landlocked developing countries on innovation; technical, scientific and patent information; intellectual property systems; and appropriate technology transfer. As a result, 21 of the countries have adopted and are implementing national intellectual property strategies, and 5 have developed such strategies.

72. The International Atomic Energy Agency is supporting 30 landlocked developing countries on the peaceful, safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology. In 2021, it supported laboratories in 27 landlocked developing countries to speed up COVID-19 testing during the fight against the pandemic and collaborated with partners to develop the African Continental Power Systems Master Plan.

73. The International Renewable Energy Agency continued its support to landlocked developing countries to assess the conditions needed to accelerate renewable energy deployment through the renewable readiness assessment tool; enhance renewable energy ambitions in the countries' nationally determined contributions; promote decentralized renewable energy solutions to address multiple targets of the Sustainable Development Goals; and address long-term energy planning.

74. WCO is working towards improving transit systems in landlocked developing countries, including by providing technical assistance in the areas of transit and customs. In June 2021, the WCO Council approved the guidelines on disaster

management and supply chain continuity to help to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

75. In 2021, in response to a request by the landlocked developing countries, the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation decided to hold regular dedicated sessions to discuss transit issues, including one in April 2022, at which it considered key findings of the 2021 report on landlocked developing countries and trade bottlenecks as well as the best practices of landlocked developing country members. The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility continued to assist landlocked developing countries, including by undertaking a survey on cross-border trade restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

76. In 2021, the Common Fund for Commodities chose six projects to consider for financing in the amount of \$8.9 million to support structural economic transformation in landlocked developing countries. It also helped such countries to respond to the pandemic by providing additional support to small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises through an emergency liquidity facility and by amending loan repayment schedules.

77. The Green Climate Fund approved \$786 million in investments for 20 landlocked developing countries, which have mobilized an additional \$2.7 billion in co-investment from private sector sources to build a portfolio of projects with a total value of \$3.5 billion. Since launching its Resilient Recovery Rapid Readiness initiative in spring 2020, the Fund has also provided over \$2 million in readiness grants to seven landlocked developing countries to support activities relating to COVID-19 and health, including the drafting of green stimulus plans.

78. The International Monetary Fund provided \$2.7 billion in emergency financing to six landlocked developing countries in 2021. The Fund is proposing a new special drawing rights allocation of \$650 billion, from which \$11.4 billion would go to landlocked developing countries to help them to address long-term needs for reserve assets.

79. The African Development Bank approved a \$5.5 million technical assistance grant to roll out the Desert to Power initiative in the Eastern Sahel region, including in Ethiopia, to undertake technical studies for regional solar parks, relevant battery storage and electricity connection systems in neighbouring countries. It also continued to support the establishment of one-stop border posts.

80. From 2019 to 2021, the Asian Development Bank committed \$5.42 billion worth of loans and grants to landlocked developing countries, which accounted for 20 per cent of its overall regional cooperation and integration support. It also provided technical assistance on regional cooperation and integration and strengthened the implementation of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Transport Strategy 2030 and Energy Strategy 2030.

81. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank supported and financed infrastructure projects in landlocked developing countries focusing on road transport development and maintenance and on improving the climate resilience of road infrastructure.

82. In 2021, the International Development Law Organization supported the transition towards e-justice in targeted landlocked developing countries and provided on-demand ad hoc direct legal assistance and capacity-building on investment-related matters and in strengthening commercial mediation.

83. The International Road Transport Union facilitated and expedited administrative processes relating to the electronic exchange of such transport documents as e-permits and electronic consignment notes, among other activities.

84. In 2021, the International Seabed Authority published *Landlocked Developing Countries and the Law of the Sea: An Ocean of Opportunity* to raise awareness about the potential benefits for landlocked developing countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is also providing capacity-strengthening support in marine scientific research and technology transfer.

85. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries organized events, prepared research outputs and toolkits and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mongolian Agricultural Commodity Exchange to strengthen its research capacity on landlocked developing countries.

86. The OECD Development Assistance Committee continues to support countries in need, including landlocked developing countries, particularly towards their achievement of sustainable development.

87. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is establishing a common digital trade platform to facilitate trade and logistics data-sharing in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In the period 2020–2021, it conducted consultation processes on climate change and security in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

## V. Conclusions and recommendations

88. While progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals was mixed before COVID-19, the pandemic increased the vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries in areas that are key to the full achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action. A transformative recovery aimed at building the long-term resilience of landlocked developing countries is critical. In the short term, it is imperative that the international community support access to COVID-19 vaccines and the strengthening of health systems, enhance investment and provide technical assistance in the various areas of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

89. In view of rising global food prices, which are increasing food insecurity in landlocked developing countries, there is a critical need for increased humanitarian support; strengthened food supply chains; and lowered transportation costs for food supplies, including through seamless transit procedures.

90. It is also imperative to continue to leverage the resident coordinator system to strengthen the coordination of the Programme of Action by the United Nations system at the national level in landlocked developing countries through, inter alia, strengthened collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors; joint analysis, planning, programming and funding mechanisms; and cooperation between resident coordinator offices and national focal points on accelerated implementation.

91. United Nations entities and other international organizations, in cooperation with Member States, should continue to provide enhanced support towards the accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action, including the road map, in order to advance sustainable development progress in landlocked developing countries.

92. The pandemic has highlighted the necessity of regional cooperation and the importance of strengthening resilience to risks arising from the cross-border movement of goods and people. Landlocked developing countries, transit countries and regional organizations are encouraged to collaborate to support the smooth functioning of transit, transport and trade corridors and to ensure the freedom of transit, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the WTO

Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures. The United Nations and other international organizations should provide greater support to landlocked and transit developing countries to build resilience in transit transport and trade facilitation.

93. Landlocked developing countries that are WTO members could take advantage of the dedicated session on transit issues, which will be held annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed, as a platform to highlight the constraints and challenges they face, share best practices and identify tangible solutions to achieve efficient and resilient transit.

94. Landlocked developing countries need enhanced support towards the development of adequate, sustainable, resilient, inclusive and affordable transport systems to meet national needs and respond effectively to such challenges as the pandemic and climate change.

95. Landlocked developing countries require technical and financial support to urgently develop trade and development policies that adequately address the post-pandemic environment. Such policies should have the fostering of productive capacities, export diversification, integration into global and regional value chains and structural economic transformation at the centre. Innovative means of implementation such as debt-for-development swaps and leveraging the role of private capital markets should be explored.

96. Further efforts are necessary to enhance the implementation of trade facilitation initiatives by landlocked developing countries and transit countries. Enhanced support to those countries is necessary for the effective implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Promoting subregional and regional cooperation, including by improving regional connectivity through the implementation of trade-facilitating measures, is necessary to ease the movement of goods and services.

97. Landlocked developing countries could focus on increasing their participation in e-commerce by strengthening ICT infrastructure and building their human and institutional capacities to better support the development of and integration into digital value chains. The support of the United Nations and international and regional organizations in this regard, in collaboration with Member States, is necessary.

98. In its resolution [76/217](#), the General Assembly called for the convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in 2024. To facilitate the preparatory process, the Assembly should decide on the pending organizational aspects. All stakeholders are encouraged to engage fully in the preparatory process for the Conference and to actively support and participate in it to ensure its success.

## Annex

## Statistical tables

Table 1

## Gross domestic product, rate of growth, official development assistance and foreign direct investment

	GDP (constant 2015 prices, billions of United States dollars)		Real GDP growth (percentage)		Official development assistance (millions of United States dollars)		Foreign direct investment inflows (millions of United States dollars)	
	2019	2020	2020	2021	2019	2020	2020	2021
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Afghanistan	20.5	20.1	-8.9	-5.8	4 468	4 262	13	21
Armenia	12.9	11.9	-7.6	5.2	631	326	47	379
Azerbaijan	48.2	42.6	-4.3	4.9	262	271	507	-1 708
Bhutan	2.46	2.44	-0.8	-2.3	200	221	1	2
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	38.2	34.8	-8.0	5.2	834	449	-1 129	594
Botswana	16.7	15.3	-7.9	5.7	88	94	32	55
Burkina Faso	15.0	15.3	1.9	5	1 297	1 880	-102	137
Burundi	3.31	3.28	-0.3	2.9	625	517	8	8
Central African Republic	1.98	2.0	1.0	0	740	845	35	30
Chad	11.25	11.16	-0.9	1.5	710	1 058	558	562
Eswatini	4.4	4.1	-2.3	1.4	92	118	41	126
Ethiopia	86.0	91.3	3.5	3.5	4 968	5 468	2 381	4 259
Kazakhstan	211.1	205.8	-2.6	3.6	108	124	3 675	3 172
Kyrgyzstan	7.9	7.2	-8.6	1.5	523	580	-402	248
Lao People's Democratic Republic	18.4	19.1	3.3	2.1	731	615	968	1 072
Lesotho	2.4	2.2	-9.5	3.6	174	211	30	27
Malawi	10.8	10.9	0.8	0.5	1 241	1 522	45	50
Mali	17.3	17.2	-1.6	3	1 940	1 667	537	660
Mongolia	14.1	13.4	-5.4	4.6	406	808	1 719	2 140
Nepal	29.7	29.1	-8.5	-1.7	1 582	1 948	126	196
Niger	12.2	12.6	3.6	4.6	1 530	1 980	361	755
North Macedonia	11.1	10.6	-4.5	4.4	0	0	230	606
Paraguay	40.7	40.3	-0.6	4.6	202	382	120	122
Republic of Moldova	9.2	8.5	-7.0	6.5	388	613	150	264
Rwanda	11.2	10.8	-3.4	4.5	1 242	1 685	274	212
South Sudan	6.5	6.1	-7.2	2.0	1 720	1 825	18	68
Tajikistan	11.1	11.6	4.5	6	417	838	107	84
Turkmenistan	32.3	31.2	5.9	6.1	29	40	1 169	1 453
Uganda	36.0	35.7	-0.8	3.9	2 195	3 208	874	1 142
Uzbekistan	101.2	102.9	1.6	6.2	1 282	1 586	1 726	2 044
Zambia	23.6	23	-3.0	1.5	1 020	1 077	-173	-457
Zimbabwe	20.2	20.4	-8.0	6.3	885	993	194	166
<b>Total/average</b>	<b>887.9</b>	<b>872.9</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>32 530</b>	<b>37 211</b>	<b>14 139</b>	<b>18 486</b>

Source: United Nations, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Note: Real GDP growth for landlocked developing countries is a weighted average.

Abbreviation: GDP, gross domestic product.

Table 2  
Merchandise exports, external debt stock and migrant remittances

	Merchandise exports (current prices, millions of United States dollars)		Merchandise exports, share of global trade (percentage)		External debt stocks (percentage of gross national income)		Migrant remittances (current prices, millions of United States dollars)	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2019	2020	2020	2021
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Afghanistan	777	1 007	0.004	0.005	13.9	15.0	797	300
Armenia	2 544	3 023	0.014	0.014	86.1	105.2	1 786	1 610
Azerbaijan	13 470	21 697	0.076	0.097	34.2	37.3	1 435	1 527
Bhutan	651	886	0.004	0.004	117.2	132.1	86	58
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	7 015	11 030	0.040	0.049	35.7	42.7	1 133	1 413
Botswana	4 262	7 095	0.024	0.032	9.5	10.6	67	41
Burkina Faso	4 372	4 797	0.025	0.022	24.1	27.0	521	561
Burundi	162	103	0.001	0.000	22.5	21.9	15	48
Central African Republic	133	162	0.001	0.001	37.2	38.1	..	..
Chad	1 906	2 560	0.011	0.011	29.7	36.7	..	..
Eswatini	1 752	2 260	0.010	0.010	15.6	21.4	129	138
Ethiopia	3 258	4 011	0.018	0.018	29.8	28.4	404	436
Kazakhstan	46 447	60 625	0.263	0.272	100.0	104.4	374	310
Kyrgyzstan	1 973	1 659	0.011	0.007	104.4	117.4	2 423	2 798
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6 115	7 620	0.035	0.034	94.0	94.8	241	213
Lesotho	888	1 052	0.005	0.005	34.8	50.1	543	562
Malawi	767	874	0.004	0.004	22.6	24.8	216	233
Mali	4 794	5 015	0.027	0.023	30.6	36.3	998	1 053
Mongolia	7 576	9 247	0.043	0.041	250.5	275.8	541	535
Nepal	856	1 979	0.005	0.009	18.9	23.2	8 205	8 199
Niger	1 136	1 229	0.006	0.006	26.8	34.9	537	542
North Macedonia	6 635	7 516	0.038	0.034	74.7	89.9	422	489
Paraguay	8 518	10 547	0.048	0.047	44.6	57.1	584	585
Republic of Moldova	2 467	3 144	0.014	0.014	59.7	68.4	2 017	2 085
Rwanda	1 408	1 251	0.008	0.006	65.1	81.1	283	423
South Sudan	1 436	1 814	0.008	0.008	..	..	..	1 236
Tajikistan	1 407	1 967	0.008	0.009	69.0	71.1	2 282	2 922
Turkmenistan	6 385	7 815	0.036	0.035	15.0	..	2	1
Uganda	4 149	4 200	0.024	0.019	40.6	46.5	1 062	1 146
Uzbekistan	13 124	14 063	0.074	0.063	36.9	53.9	8 203	9 198
Zambia	7 821	11 100	0.044	0.050	121.1	170.7	135	242
Zimbabwe	4 396	5 921	0.025	0.027	64.8	73.0	1 832	1 982
<b>Total/average</b>	<b>168 601</b>	<b>217 268</b>	<b>0.956</b>	<b>0.975</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>37 273</b>	<b>40 884</b>

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and World Bank.