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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 2 (b)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

73/2. Strengthening the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/137 of 12 December 2014, by which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014 and at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and resolution 71/3 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action to address 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 to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda held in 2015, by which it created a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 64/214 of 21 December 2009, in which the Assembly welcomed the establishment of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and resolution 69/137, in which it urged ratification of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries,

Welcoming the work done by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries and to maximize the efficiency of coordinated efforts for effective implementation of the internationally agreed provisions on landlocked developing countries,

Welcoming also the efforts by the Government of Viet Nam in hosting the United Nations High-level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Cooperation on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in Hanoi from 7 to 9 March 2017, and noting the outcome of the meeting,¹

Acknowledging the contributions of regional integration frameworks, including the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,² the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network³ and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,⁴ in helping landlocked developing countries to overcome constraints resulting from their landlockedness,

Recognizing the need to promote public and private investment in regional trade, transport, communication and energy networks, as well as the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Having considered the note by the secretariat on its support for regional implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,⁵

Recognizing that regional integration initiatives, such as the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and the Master Plan on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity 2025, could effectively facilitate the participation of landlocked developing countries in the global economy, when carried out in accordance with relevant internationally accepted rules, obligations and best practices,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024⁶ constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked developing countries, transit countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels;

2. *Invites* landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other stakeholders to implement, at all levels, the relevant actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action under its priorities for action – 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 – in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

¹ http://unohrrls.org/event/euro-asia_1ldcs-transit-countries_viet-nam/.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

³ Ibid., vol. 2596, No. 46171.

⁴ Resolution 69/7.

⁵ E/ESCAP/73/3.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

3. *Invites* 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 and for ongoing regional integration processes involving landlocked developing countries;

4. *Stresses* that the Vienna Programme of Action calls for regional integration and cooperation among landlocked developing countries that goes beyond trade and trade facilitation, and recognizes that mainstreaming regional connectivity in all dimensions, including economic, sociocultural and people-to-people, is vital for increasing their competitiveness and diversification and helping to maximize the benefits of globalization;

5. *Underlines* that regional integration initiatives can effectively facilitate the participation of landlocked developing countries in the global economy;

6. *Also underlines* the importance of effective mobilization by landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours of adequate domestic and external resources for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and the critical role that the private sector can play in supporting implementation, including through foreign direct investment;

7. *Encourages* those Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries that have not done so, to ratify or accede to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for the Landlocked Developing Countries, at their earliest convenience, in order to make the Think Tank fully operational, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, member countries and relevant international and regional organizations to support the Think Tank, as appropriate;

8. *Welcomes* the elements included in the Nairobi Package adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and invites members to ratify and fully implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

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. *Also underlines* that effective links, at the regional level, should be made between the review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue to support the development efforts of landlocked developing countries, especially in areas related to regional connectivity, competitiveness and integration frameworks;

(b) Continue to provide all possible assistance to Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to and monitoring of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and submit annual analytical reports, as called for in paragraph 75 of the Vienna Programme of Action, to the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting
19 May 2017*
