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Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries: the new programme of action for the landlocked developing countries

ESCAP support for implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries

Note by the secretariat**

Summary

The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted during the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, noted, among other things, that landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth since the adoption 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. It also identified priority areas of action for the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation, and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help transform those countries into land-linked countries.

The Vienna Programme of Action highlights five main areas of support for landlocked developing countries from regional commissions: (a) monitoring and review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through existing intergovernmental processes at the subregional and regional levels; (b) building the capacity of landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner; (c) inviting regional and subregional organizations to mainstream implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes; (d) submitting analytical reports on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; and, in that regard (e) inviting regional and subregional organizations and the private sector to be actively involved in the sessions of the Commission.

The Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat in assisting the Asian landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with their development partners and other international entities, on the proposed regional road map for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that address their special development needs and challenges in a more coherent manner. The road map, based on the priority areas of action, contains a set of capacity development activities aimed at delivering knowledge products, dissemination, advocacy, expert services, reviews, monitoring and evaluation, and provides a basis for formulating technical assistance programmes and projects at regional, subregional and national levels. It identifies the key agencies and entities that would, potentially, be involved in delivering these products and services at national, subregional and regional levels.

* E/ESCAP/71/L.1/Rev.1.

** The present note has been submitted late owing to the need to incorporate the latest inputs and information on landlocked developing countries.

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I. Introduction

1. The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014. As an outcome document, the Conference adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024.

2. The Vienna Programme of Action has the overarching goal of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness and isolation from key global markets. It identified priority areas for action for the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation, and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help transform those countries into land-linked countries. It provides a framework for action, both at the national level and in the form of regional partnerships, that would add value to national development strategies and processes in the Asian landlocked developing countries.

3. The Vienna Programme of Action highlights five main areas of support for landlocked developing countries from regional commissions: (a) monitoring and review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through existing intergovernmental processes at the subregional and regional levels; (b) building the capacity of landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner; (c) inviting regional and subregional organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes; (d) submitting analytical reports on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; and, in that regard (e) inviting regional and subregional organizations and the private sector to be actively involved in the sessions of the Commission.

4. The Vienna Programme of Action indicates the course of action for coordinating the activities of the relevant regional organizations, agencies and development partners to act together with the Asian landlocked developing countries to sharpen country-level efforts. It is expected that each landlocked developing country, given its specific circumstances, will have its own development strategies, plans and programmes. These areas are only indicative and aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. In no way do they preclude the initiatives and actions the landlocked developing countries and their development partners, either individually or collectively, may wish to adopt and pursue.

5. The proposed regional road map has two broad components: (a) a regional and subregional implementation strategy for the Asian landlocked developing countries; and (b) a set of deliverables for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action in the region. The first component covers the strategic thrusts in each of the six priority areas as identified in the Vienna Programme of Action. The deliverables for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action, on the other hand, include several categories of products and services to be delivered — potentially — by United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, including the multilateral funding institutions, either in partnership or individually, in both cases working with the landlocked developing countries. These deliverables are: (a) analytical and normative studies and reports on regional awareness creation and consensus-building on issues critical to the landlocked developing countries and their development partners; (b) dissemination and advocacy; (c) mobilizing resources and provision of expert services; (d) follow-up, monitoring and review; (e) mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action in development cooperation, including in the national development strategies of the landlocked developing countries; and (f) identifying substantive measures to enhance the contribution of international organizations. These products and services correspond to the priority concerns for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action.

II. The Vienna Programme of Action

6. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is 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 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.

7. Under the Vienna Programme of Action, it has been agreed that the national policies of the landlocked developing countries and international support measures during the decade 2014-2024 will focus on the following six specific goals and objectives:

(a) To promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of freedom of transit, and other related measures, and in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

(b) To reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification and standardization of rules and regulations, so as to increase the competitiveness of exports of landlocked developing countries and reduce the costs of imports, thereby contributing to the promotion of rapid and inclusive economic development;

(c) To develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;

(d) To implement effectively bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration;

(e) To promote growth and increased participation in global trade, through structural transformation related to enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, diversification and reduction of dependency on commodities;

(f) To enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness in order to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

8. The Vienna Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. In addition, strengthened partnerships with relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sectors are also essential parts of the Vienna Programme of Action.

9. The Vienna Programme of Action will undertake concrete actions in a number of interrelated areas in order to overcome the shortcomings of the Almaty Programme of Action. It has been agreed that the landlocked developing countries, for their part, will integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies and plans in order to indicate concrete measures. Development partners, for their part, will implement the Vienna Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to landlocked developing countries, as agreed in the Vienna Programme of Action.

III. Priority areas for action

10. The Vienna Programme of Action has identified six priority areas around which actions for the landlocked developing countries will be organized during the decade. They are:

- (a) Fundamental transit policy issues;
- (b) Infrastructure development and maintenance: transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure;
- (c) International trade and trade facilitation;
- (d) Regional integration and cooperation;
- (e) Structural economic transformation;
- (f) Means of implementation.

11. For each of these priority areas and their major constituents, the Vienna Programme of Action specifies objectives that landlocked developing countries may pursue in accordance with their national development policies and strategies. The Vienna Programme of Action also charts broad directions along which joint actions could be directed and individual actions by the landlocked developing countries and the development partners could be undertaken in order to achieve the objectives. Recognizing the crucial role of efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels for the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of

Action and to ensure accountability of landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and the development partners, a mutually complementary and reinforcing framework has also been suggested covering the three levels: national, regional and global.¹

IV. Regional road map for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action

A. Regional and subregional implementation strategy for the Asia-Pacific region

12. In the Asia-Pacific region, landlocked developing countries in general have witnessed significant fluctuations in economic growth and export performance in recent years, emanating mainly from the global economic crisis and the knock-on effects of sluggish growth in advanced countries in addition to facing historical challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets. Despite notable, though uneven, progress, Asian landlocked developing countries continue to face difficulties in global trade, thus preventing them from reaping the benefits of global trade, structural transformation and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth.

13. The Vienna Programme of Action has placed special emphasis on national-level arrangements for its effective implementation since the Programme has to be owned and led by the countries. It is expected that the Government of each landlocked developing country would integrate the provisions of the Vienna Programme of Action into its national policies and development framework and conduct regular reviews on its implementation within a participatory and inclusive framework. The development partners would also support objectives and policies on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action that are integrated into national development and cooperation frameworks.

14. It is crucial that harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation, as well as simplified and harmonized systems, should be further promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries for the effective and integrated solution to cross-border trade and transit transport problems and to promote free movement of people between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbouring countries.

15. The Vienna Programme of Action further stresses the key role played by the development and maintenance of transit transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure to reduce high trading costs, improve competitiveness and fully integrate into international markets. It also emphasizes the importance of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation in infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international assistance, multilateral financing and strengthening private sector investment and public-private partnership in the development and maintenance of infrastructure.

¹ The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, with support from the Inter-Agency Consultative Group, has developed a road map for the implementation, mainstreaming, and monitoring and review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action at the global level. They are also engaged in developing a set of indicators to monitor the goals and targets of the Vienna Programme of Action, the draft of which will be shared shortly.

16. Slower global demand since 2012 has translated into declining exports and a net trade deficit for Asian landlocked developing countries. Thus, greater effort should be given to policies and measures to diversify production and export structures and to enhance their productivity and competitiveness, in particular moving from low-value, high-bulk commodities to high-value, low-bulk ones to make the most of the benefits of the multilateral trading system and enhance the competitiveness of their exports.

17. The Vienna Programme of Action accords special priority to regional and subregional integration and cooperation. It recognizes that subregional and regional integration and cooperation can play a critical role in promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in landlocked developing countries, including through enhanced subregional and regional connectivity, both physical and institutional, and strengthened responses to threats and crises of various kinds. The importance of advancing and supporting subregional and regional integration and cooperation efforts in favour of landlocked developing countries should be stressed.

18. Additionally, the international community must stimulate global action in support of the development needs of landlocked developing countries, the progress of which would bring greater global growth and opportunities for all, and establish and maintain effective transit transport systems. An increase in South-South and triangular cooperation and trade and investment flows has a positive impact on the development processes of landlocked developing countries. The development partners of landlocked developing countries should commit to further strengthening their partnerships, which should be seen as a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation and the commitments of official development assistance (ODA) and aid for trade.

19. The Vienna Programme of Action stresses that the efficient follow-up and review mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels are crucial for its successful implementation and should be a continuous process aimed at reinforcing partnerships and mutual accountability at all levels and by all actors.

20. The Vienna Programme of Action states that, at the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should undertake reviews and submit analytical reports on its implementation in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies should continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries are addressed as part of their ongoing work.

Proposed regional/subregional implementation strategy

21. This section provides the regional/subregional implementation strategy for the Asia-Pacific region for the six priority areas of action identified in the Vienna Programme of Action, which is based on the premise that each Asian landlocked developing country translate policies and programmes in the Programme into concrete measures by mainstreaming it into their national and sectoral development strategies and plans. The strategy is summarized in table 1. The proposed regional/subregional partnership will assist the Asian landlocked developing countries with different products and services such as knowledge and capacity development, resources, expertise, advocacy for the Vienna Programme of Action and regional cooperation in delivering public goods that assist the countries to follow country-specific courses of action. However, it will be vital to have the necessary financial, human and technical resources as well as political commitment.

Table 1
Regional/subregional implementation strategy for the Asian landlocked developing countries

Priority areas	Strategy/action	Responsibility
1. Fundamental transit policy issues		
	<p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through private sector investment and public-private partnerships, to implement initiatives such as the establishment of multilateral sustainable and efficient transit transport regimes that promote cooperation to improve the quality and efficiency of international transport and address outstanding issues;</p> <p>To promote further harmonization, simplification, transparency and standardization of rules and documentation, with full and effective implementation of international conventions and other legal instruments related to transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements in a coherent manner;</p> <p>To promote development-effective logistic systems and cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws, regulations and trade and transport data between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, particularly to address the non-physical barriers that cause high transport costs and loss of time;</p> <p>To enhance coordination and cooperation of national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures between them and with the respective agencies in transit countries.</p>	<p>All regional and international organizations, including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; and the private sector</p>
2. Infrastructure development and maintenance		
<p>Transport infrastructure</p> <p>Energy and information and communications technology</p>	<p>To strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks that ensure stable, investment-friendly policies and rapid infrastructure development supported by increased domestic resource mobilization and technological upgrading;</p> <p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through mobilization of domestic resources, multilateral and regional development banks, foreign private investment and public-private partnerships, to expand and upgrade existing transport infrastructure facilities and to connect missing links in railroads and road systems;</p> <p>To support intermodal transport development and promote harmonization of transport systems to facilitate regional connectivity;</p> <p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through private sector investment and public-private partnerships, for improving the generation and distribution of modern, reliable and renewable energy, while aiming to ensure access to affordable energy for all;</p> <p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support in enhancing access to modern, affordable and high-quality information and communications technologies and services, particularly broadband infrastructure, in order to reduce transit times and costs;</p> <p>To support the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology, including information and communications technologies and renewable energy technology.</p>	<p>All regional and international organizations including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; and the private sector</p>

Priority areas	Strategy/action	Responsibility
3. International trade and trade facilitation		
International trade Trade facilitation	<p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through aid for trade, private sector investment and public-private partnerships, to promote further harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation, with full and effective implementation of international conventions and other legal instruments related to trade facilitation;</p> <p>To support promotion of regional and subregional trade and cooperation, export promotion and regional connectivity through trade-enabling and facilitating measures;</p> <p>To support efforts to address non-tariff measures and eliminate unjustified non-tariff barriers while strengthening human, institutional and regulatory capacities in trade policies and trade negotiations;</p> <p>To strengthen human, institutional and regulatory capacities in national trade policy and regional/global trade negotiations in such areas as market entry and access, tariffs, customs, competition, investment, technology and regional integration;</p> <p>To provide support in implementing trade and investment policies and measures to significantly increase economic and export diversification and value added, and enhance integration of small and medium-sized enterprises' development within international trade.</p>	All regional and international organizations including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; and the private sector
4. Regional integration and cooperation		
	<p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through aid for trade and financing for development, to promote meaningful regional economic integration to encompass cooperation among landlocked developing countries and their neighbouring transit countries;</p> <p>To provide support in deepening balanced regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communications and energy networks;</p> <p>To support efforts to develop human and institutional capacities for ongoing regional integration processes.</p>	All regional and international organizations including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; and the private sector

Priority areas	Strategy/action	Responsibility
5. Structural economic transformation	<p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through financing for development, to promote structural transformation aiming at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness and better integration into regional and global value chains;</p> <p>To support efforts in building productive capacities to transform productive structures into higher value-added activities and service-based growth that involve more skilled and technology-intensive production;</p> <p>To support efforts in promoting vertical integration, horizontal specialization and the creation of industrial clusters through integration of foreign direct investment (FDI);</p> <p>To provide technical assistance for landlocked developing countries in the region in technology transfer and in promoting investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;</p> <p>To support efforts to develop human and institutional capacities for improving the ability to attract FDI in high-value added sectors and encouraging investment such as export credits, risk management tools, co-financing, venture capital and other lending instruments, business development services and feasibility studies;</p> <p>To set up and strengthen, as appropriate, initiatives to support investment in landlocked developing countries such as insurance, guarantees and preferential financing programmes and private enterprise funds for investment in landlocked developing countries.</p>	<p>All regional and international organizations including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; the private sector; and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries</p>
6. Means of implementation	<p>To support global partnerships with a priority focus on greater FDI and ODA, increased market access and aid for trade, and more effective South-South, triangular and regional cooperation;</p> <p>To provide enhanced technical and financial support, including through aid for trade and financing for development, for achieving sustained growth and sustainable development;</p> <p>To support efforts for monitoring and review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through existing intergovernmental processes at subregional and regional levels;</p> <p>To undertake regional reviews of the progress made in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action through research and analytical work and submission of the reports;</p> <p>To support efforts to build capacity to raise domestic resources through revenue-generation and financial sector reforms; and to support development of an efficient, effective, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector and productive capacity as well as development of capacity to benefit from private sector investments including public-private partnerships and venture capital operations;</p>	<p>All regional and international organizations including the United Nations system; Asian landlocked developing countries; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other lead agencies; the private sector</p>

Priority areas	Strategy/action	Responsibility
	<p>To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries in mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation;</p> <p>All donor countries should, as soon as possible, meet their commitments, review ODA and consider further enhancing resources for landlocked developing countries;</p> <p>To provide timely information on annual commitments and disbursements; to use national systems as the first option for aid programmes in support of activities managed by the public sector; to align aid with national priorities and strengthen capacity development and enhance the quality of aid;</p> <p>To improve donor coordination and harmonization; to continue to make progress on aid with no conditions attached; to align the allocation of aid on country priorities, with a particular focus on productive capacity development; and to explore new innovative finance mechanisms to supplement traditional sources of finance.</p>	

Priority country-specific actions for Asian landlocked developing countries

22. Asian landlocked developing countries are both very similar and unique in terms of their physical environments and socioeconomic characteristics, although they vary according to size and type of economy. The size of the population, for instance, varies from approximately 700,000 in Bhutan to more than 31 million in Afghanistan. The nature of their problems also differs widely, along with their respective potential and development options, although they all face the same challenges of being landlocked. It is important therefore to highlight country-specific strategies and actions within the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action. This is necessary since, despite similarities in the overall status of development, the nature and degree of the constraints facing each country are different and these need country-specific actions. Moreover, although the nature of actions may be similar, their relative priority may be different in view of national realities. It may be mentioned here that most of the relevant actions are more likely to be covered within the development frameworks of these countries, as reflected in their plan/strategy documents, but there is a need to reprioritize, adjust and sharpen actions in the light of commitments made under the Vienna Programme of Action.

B. Deliverables under the regional road map for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action

23. Within the mutually agreed compact between the landlocked developing countries, the development partners and relevant organizations, the Vienna Programme of Action contains six priority areas of action, each having concrete commitments and deliverables. The overarching emphasis is on addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner. It thus contributes to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to regional integration and connectivity by moving towards the goal of land-linking these countries. Particular attention is therefore to be given in the

period until 2024 to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation, and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help transform those countries into land-linked countries.

24. The key challenge for the Asian landlocked developing countries is to ensure that concrete actions are in place at national, regional/subregional and international levels for realizing the commitments and the deliverables in a comprehensive manner. In this context, designing a road map may facilitate a quick transition of both the Asian landlocked developing countries and their development partners towards a path of coordinated and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

25. The deliverables under the regional road map, given in table 2, have been designed to provide an account of the possible institutions/agencies² that will have to take the lead to ensure proper implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in Asia and the Pacific, relevant objectives with which the actions should be guided and substantial actions that are required to deliver the expected outcomes. It needs to be acknowledged that the number of institutions/agencies that should collaborate is necessarily large in view of the comprehensive nature of the Vienna Programme of Action and covers the United Nations system and other international organizations, intergovernmental and regional organizations, global partnerships, donor agencies, multi-stakeholder engagements, and South-South and triangular cooperation.

26. The deliverables under the road map (table 2) fall into several broad categories of products and services from the global/regional level for the Asian landlocked developing countries. It is expected that the regional partners can achieve significant economies of scale in building up knowledge and information. Knowledge generation can take a number of forms including annual assessments of the progress achieved by the Asian landlocked developing countries in terms of major targets set in the Vienna Programme of Action; issues related to achieving the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action; creating new goal outcomes that affect knowledge; developing evidence-based policy options; estimating resource requirements; and identifying key areas and sectors for public-private donor investments.

² It must be emphasized here that none of the United Nations organizations, funds and programmes and the global and regional development financial institutions mentioned in table 2 have been consulted about their respective contributions to implementing the Vienna Programme of Action. This draft and suggested scheme is based on their existing mandates and the support they have been providing to the landlocked developing countries. Once the draft regional road map is endorsed by the landlocked developing countries, it is intended that more formal consultation will be initiated with them.

Table 2
Deliverables under the regional road map for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
Global/regional			
To promote regional consensus building in support of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	<p>To undertake measures to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the work programmes of all relevant organizations; and to establish regular and periodic review mechanisms for monitoring the progress of implementation under the Vienna Programme of Action at regional and subregional levels;</p> <p>To prepare status and progress reports, such as the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2015</i>, deliverables, and to review reports to highlight progress and challenges;</p> <p>To strengthen cooperation with landlocked developing countries on the mainstreaming of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;</p> <p>To ensure that all United Nations organizations support national-level mainstreaming and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action along with active engagement of country coordination mechanisms (e.g. the United Nations Development Assistance Framework);</p> <p>To formulate (if necessary) a detailed project proposal on regional-level mainstreaming of the Vienna Programme of Action. This should help identify ways to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the national development plans and strategies of each landlocked developing country and how the United Nations country team can contribute effectively to the process;</p> <p>To organize regional/subregional workshops with national focal points and capacity-building workshops in landlocked developing countries to disseminate the outcomes of the project and provide support in mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action into national development plans and strategies.</p>	Jan.- Dec. 2015	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; United Nations country teams; and Asian landlocked developing countries

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
To mobilize resources for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action	To develop a regional strategy for mobilizing adequate resources for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action based on resource requirements and the impact thereof; and to explore options to mobilize the required additional funds through various options, for example setting up a multi-donor trust fund for Asian landlocked developing countries.	Jan.- Dec. 2015	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; and Asian landlocked developing countries
To create greater regional awareness and advocacy regarding the Vienna Programme of Action	To develop advocacy and outreach strategy in consultation with the landlocked developing countries and initiate its implementation with support from landlocked developing countries and development partners.	Jan.- Dec. 2015	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; and Asian landlocked developing countries
To undertake regular follow-up, monitoring and review of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	<p>To prepare a country-specific list of deliverables by landlocked developing countries and suggest indicators for monitoring in cooperation with such countries;</p> <p>To publish annual regional/subregional reports on the progress of implementation, mid-term review reports and other reports;</p> <p>To specify, in collaboration with Asian landlocked developing countries, indicators for monitoring, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action including by the Commission's Special Body.</p>	Jan.- Dec. 2015	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; and Asian landlocked developing countries
Efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the regional level for the successful implementation of this Programme of Action	As part of the annual sessions of the Commission, the secretariat should undertake reviews, every two years, of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in close collaboration with global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development partners, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector.	2016, 2018, 2020, 2024	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; governmental organizations; and Asian landlocked developing countries and their development partners (including donors, countries of the South, parliaments, the private sector, civil society and foundations)

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
To mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the development cooperation strategies of the development partners including the United Nations and other international agencies, regional/subregional organizations, and specialized agencies	<p>To encourage development partners to fulfil their commitment of mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action into their development cooperation strategies with landlocked developing countries and to support effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;</p> <p>To strengthen cooperation between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and international, regional and subregional organizations on implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;</p> <p>To engage with regional consultative processes to highlight the Vienna Programme of Action in deliberations and actions.</p>	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States; and Asian landlocked developing countries
To identify substantive measures to enhance the contribution of the United Nations system and other international/regional organizations in implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	<p>To contribute to the development of frameworks for supporting aid for investment in Asian landlocked developing countries, including concessional start-up finance and preferential investment regimes;</p> <p>To identify specific actions for substantiating commitments in the areas of aid, FDI, remittances, domestic resource mobilization, and human and social development for the Asian landlocked developing countries.</p>	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	The support of ESCAP to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and other regional intergovernmental entities
To promote the complementary role of South-South cooperation in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action	To specify modalities for South-South cooperation in consultation with Asian landlocked developing countries.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	
To promote the contribution of the private sector to implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	To organize multi-stakeholder dialogue forums that include representatives of business and Government. Existing platforms, such as the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, can also be used for this purpose.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	

Objectives	Suggested activities	Time frame	Lead responsible institutions
National			
To mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into national development plans and strategies	To adopt measures, with the necessary support from concerned regional/subregional organizations, to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into national development frameworks (five-year plans, poverty reduction strategy papers, strategy/policy documents) and align strategies/policies/ programmes (as necessary) to ensure effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and realize its goals.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	National Governments of Asian landlocked developing countries
To ensure effective implementation of national strategies and programmes consistent with the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action	To develop an implementation strategy and adopt the necessary institutional reforms for the implementation machineries; To adopt a strong anti-corruption strategy and improve public administrative capacity; To operationalize solid monitoring and evaluation systems.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	National Governments of Asian landlocked developing countries
To promote the private sector's contribution to implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	To undertake discussions on raising awareness of the Vienna Programme of Action and identifying possible ways to contribute; To develop platforms (e.g. the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and national-level multi-stakeholder dialogues) to ensure continued engagement of the private sector and invite them to take part in implementation, follow-up, monitoring and review of the Vienna Programme of Action.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	National Governments of Asian landlocked developing countries
To promote civil society's awareness and contribution to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action	To develop and adopt an advocacy and outreach strategy for the Vienna Programme of Action; To engage civil society using different options (e.g. establish a civil society advisory committee) in implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the Vienna Programme of Action; To organize regular discussion meetings and work jointly to implement strategies and programmes of the Vienna Programme of Action.	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2019	National Governments of Asian landlocked developing countries

27. In order to achieve success as regards the goal of land-linking under the Vienna Programme of Action, different partners need to play their designated roles. However, in order to avoid the process becoming fragmented, uncoordinated and less effective, there is a need to ensure institutionalized interaction and dialogue among the relevant partners. The relevant organizations, including ESCAP, have considerable experience as regards the exchange of information on “best practices” and sharing of knowledge and expertise. Another important partner in advocacy will be the media. The aim in this case would be to raise public awareness so as to build and sustain public support for the Vienna Programme of Action and create opportunities and space for the emergence of new forms of organization and alliances.

28. Regional cooperation is also vital for the provision of regional public goods. Those that have a direct impact on the Vienna Programme of Action include cross-border infrastructure projects in transport, information and communications technology and energy framework agreements in regional and subregional trade and transit infrastructure, as well as modalities for dealing with such cross-border issues as environmental pollution, natural disasters and communicable diseases, which have strong externalities and need to be addressed collectively.

29. Table 2 also summarizes the deliverables and timelines for implementing the road map. It lists several activities, encompassing a wide variety of activities, which need further concretization based on needs assessment and the consultative process, and intensive inter-agency consultation and discussions. The need will also be to involve all the United Nations organizations, agencies, funds and programmes and the Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in implementing these activities, either individually or in partnership with others. The United Nations country teams will be invited to participate in further defining and executing these activities. The above should, however, be treated as a “rolling programme” that needs to be revised in the light of experience, and some of the activities that are ongoing may be further developed as part of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes.

C. Monitoring and follow-up of the Vienna Programme of Action

30. The success of the road map will depend ultimately on the commitment of the regional organizations and entities in pooling their resources and expertise. To do so effectively they will require specific plans, milestones and timelines, and systems for evaluating the outcome. To ensure effective implementation of the commitments, the Vienna Programme of Action underscores the importance of effective monitoring, follow-up and review mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels. Central to these, however, is the need to adopt a set of indicators that are reliable, comparable across time and countries, and easy to collect and interpret.

31. Indicators reflecting these features are essential in assessing the degree to which actions taken by the Asian landlocked developing countries and their development partners match the respective commitments needed for promoting mutual accountability. Such mechanisms also help identify constraints and shortcomings and provide feedback to the landlocked developing countries and their development partners, enabling both parties to formulate and implement the necessary corrective measures. Besides, these indicators are also needed to gauge the effectiveness of their actions. The indicators also help document whether and to what extent implemented actions are able to make progress in achieving the expected outcomes and targets set out in the Vienna Programme of Action. The framework that should guide the choice of such indicators is the input-process-output-impact approach, which features three main categories of indicators: input indicators (related to actions); process indicators (related to transformation of inputs); and output/impact indicators (related to results and objectives respectively).

32. Some of these indicators have already been defined and identified for a number of goals and targets of the Vienna Programme of Action. However, such indicators for the remaining priority areas need to be specified and agreed. A set of the proposed indicators for monitoring the progress of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action is being prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States with support from the Inter-

Agency Consultative Group on Landlocked Developing Countries. However, a process of continuous review needs to be institutionalized so that these indicators can be used on a comprehensive and consistent basis.

D. Summary and conclusions

33. Linking physical and institutional infrastructure is a complex and expensive challenge for landlocked developing countries; it also requires strong political commitment and the involvement of the public and private sectors. Thus, Asian landlocked developing countries continue to face difficulties in linking to global trade, thus preventing them from reaping the benefits of globalization and rising intraregional trade and FDI. In addition, establishing the right infrastructure to provide international connectivity is a must for the landlocked developing countries and their development partners. Although significant progress has been made in the region, infrastructure connectivity is unfinished business.

34. Excessive dependence on a few commodities also exposes many of the landlocked developing countries to volatility in the global commodity markets and they have been badly hit by low commodity prices. The way ahead for these countries is to diversify their economies in terms of products and export markets. For this, they have to augment their productive capacities in other sectors and reorient their export markets to link up with the fast growing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. This is not a task that can be achieved in a short period. It requires substantial investments to improve physical infrastructure, especially their transport and communication connectivity.

35. Thus, the broad thrust in both the Almaty Programme of Action and the Vienna Programme of Action is to accelerate integration and cooperation for providing greater connectivity — transport, communication, energy — to the landlocked developing countries. To this end, priorities were set in the Almaty Programme of Action, namely fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures, and implementation and review mechanisms. Reinforcing and expanding these priorities, the Vienna Programme of Action advocates regional integration and cooperation and structural economic transformation.