



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Item 22 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

### **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 [74/233](#), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The report contains a review of progress made, as well as the challenges identified, in the implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action, including actions by Member States, the United Nations system and other organizations. The progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action still falls short of achieving the targets set. As indicated in the report, the emergence and spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is having an unprecedented impact on the development prospects of landlocked developing countries and the implementation of the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action. Countries need to safeguard past gains and make even greater efforts following the pandemic. The report also contains recommendations on how to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Concerted efforts by and support from the international community will be required, multilateral organizations will play a more important role than ever and the road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action will be executed effectively.

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\* [A/75/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 was held in December 2019. During the midterm review, a political declaration was adopted that demonstrated the strong commitment of the international community to accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. It was recognized that some important progress had been made in the first five years of implementation, but major gaps and challenges still needed to be addressed. The present report provides a comprehensive analysis of recent progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as information on the political declaration. The impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on landlocked developing countries and the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action are also highlighted in the report.

## II. Overview of socioeconomic development in landlocked developing countries and impact of the pandemic

2. Until the end of 2019, landlocked developing countries had exhibited mixed progress towards their socioeconomic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Progress had been made towards the achievement of some of the Goals, while progress towards others had stalled or even reversed. Growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) for those countries increased slightly, from 4.6 per cent in 2017 to 4.8 per cent in 2018, before falling to an estimated 4.4 per cent in 2019. Growth in real per capita GDP declined from 2.3 per cent in 2018 to 1.4 per cent in 2019.

3. Little progress had been made with regard to structural economic transformation. The share of manufacturing value added in GDP remained at just over 10 per cent in 2019. The landlocked developing countries' share of global merchandise exports remained small, at 1 per cent in 2019, and highly concentrated in commodities.

4. The proportion of the population in landlocked developing countries living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day declined from 31.1 per cent in 2015 to 28.7 per cent in 2018. The data disaggregated by gender and age exhibited the same positive trend.

5. Modest progress continued into 2018 with regard to a broad range of health-related indicators, including maternal, under-5 and infant mortality, incidence of HIV, malaria and hepatitis B and access to vaccines. The trend of gains with regard to some indicators related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continued. For example, a total of 27.3 per cent of seats in national parliaments in landlocked developing countries were held by women in 2020, up from 26.5 per cent in 2019.

6. The unemployment rate in landlocked developing countries was 4.5 per cent in 2019, with disproportionately higher rates among young persons and women. However, 25.7 per cent of the employed population in those countries lived below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day. There were minor year-on-year declines with regard to some education indicators, such as gender parity of teachers and the proportion of trained teachers in education. Debt servicing as a percentage of exports of goods and services rose from 19.1 in 2014 to 27.8 in 2018.

7. In 2019, on average, all indicators related to food insecurity in landlocked developing countries continued to exhibit a deteriorating trend. In 2017, access to

improved drinking water sources and sanitation facilities remained low, and well below world averages, especially in rural areas. Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion have continued to grow, although those emissions have declined in terms of GDP.

8. The high vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to the negative impacts of climate change, especially drought, desertification, land degradation and the melting of glaciers, remained of serious concern, as evidenced by several severe climate-related events in the past year, including the severe floods associated with Cyclone Idai in Malawi and Zimbabwe and the devastating floods in Nepal. Increased and expedited resources and support are needed to implement national adaptation plans. Land covered by forests has declined steadily from 17.2 per cent in 2015 to 16.8 per cent in 2020.

9. Over the past few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the development prospects of landlocked developing countries, affecting their ability to achieve the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the number of deaths attributed to the disease in landlocked developing countries have risen rapidly since March 2020.

10. The increase in cases of COVID-19 has resulted in greater demand for health care, yet the health systems of landlocked developing countries are weaker than those elsewhere in the world, with lower ratios of health professionals and hospital beds per capita. Landlocked developing countries are also critically dependent on imported medicine, medical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

11. Most landlocked developing countries have introduced nationwide or partial lockdowns, with a broad range of measures. The effects of the pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact are likely to have significant setbacks in 2020 with regard to the progress made on numerous Sustainable Development Goal indicators owing to their impacts on GDP, international trade, investment, external debt, fiscal balance, lower business activity and earnings, school closures, a fall in commodity prices and trade flows. Traditional service sectors, such as tourism, retail, hospitality and civil aviation, and some labour-intensive sectors have been hit particularly hard, resulting in increased layoffs and unemployment. Small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector have been particularly vulnerable.

12. Global output is projected to decline sharply. Projections prepared for the “World economic situation and prospects as of mid-2020” indicate that the economies of landlocked developing countries will face at least a 0.1 per cent contraction in 2020. There are already indications in several of those countries that investments intended for sustainable development have been diverted to address the impact of COVID-19. Given the recent collapse in commodity prices, in particular oil prices, which have fallen to their lowest level in nearly two decades, the fiscal outlook of landlocked developing countries that export commodities is bleak, and those countries with high levels of external debt are particularly at risk.

13. Of the 50 countries around the world that are experiencing food crises, as identified in the *2020 Global Report on Food Crises*, 16 are landlocked developing countries. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbates the food insecurity situation in landlocked developing countries given that most are net food importers. In addition, they face longer shipment times and higher transportation costs related to imports, which have worsened amid disruptions in global supply chains and an increase in food import prices.

14. Effective social protection schemes and policies, along with government spending on key services, are crucial to safeguarding the poor and vulnerable during

crises. However, in many landlocked developing countries, effective social protection systems remain limited in coverage and will need significant upgrading to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only 6.4 per cent of the unemployed in those countries were covered by social protection systems in 2016, compared with the global average of 22 per cent.

15. The following sections highlight recent progress made and the impacts and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action.

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

#### **Priority 1: fundamental transit policy issues**

16. The two landlocked developing countries that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and had yet to ratify the Agreement on Trade Facilitation did so in 2019. Three transit countries that are WTO members also ratified the Agreement. One landlocked developing country and two transit countries ratified the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures. Further progress was made on the digitalization of TIR carnets, which will help the eTIR international system to interoperate with the information and communications technology (ICT) of national customs systems and private sector systems.

17. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries have continued to make efforts to implement regional and subregional initiatives to support transit. States members of the Economic Commission for Europe are engaged in a process to establish a unified railway law that would apply to all activities carried out by operators along the entire East-West axis, connecting Europe to Asia.

18. With regard to the specific objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action, there is evidence that the goal of reducing travel time along transport corridors, with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move a distance of 300 to 400 kilometres every 24 hours by December 2019, had been achieved for some corridors used by landlocked developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including corridors of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme in Asia (the Central and Trans-Kalahari corridors), parts of the Northern Corridor in Africa and the Santa Cruz-Tambo Quemado-Arica Corridor in Latin America. However, other corridors continue to fall short of the goal or there are no data available. With respect to the objective of significantly reducing the time spent at land borders, according to data from the World Bank's *Doing Business* reports for 2020 and 2018, an improvement has been made in export and import border compliance times for landlocked developing countries.

19. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to significant reversals in the gains made in improving transit for landlocked developing countries. The imposition of border restrictions by neighbouring transit countries in their efforts to combat the spread of the virus has had a significant impact on the movement of goods and services to landlocked developing countries. Health measures, such as mandatory testing for truck drivers, imposed by some countries have slowed transit trade. Against that background, there is a need to ensure that legitimate measures to ensure the health and safety of customs and border staff and local populations disrupt transit trade as little as possible.

**Priority 2: infrastructure development and maintenance**

20. Some landlocked developing countries have made progress in expanding their road and rail networks. During the midterm review, representatives of landlocked developing countries shared information on transport infrastructure projects that were under construction, completed or nearing completion, including the construction of the Murtinho bridge, which will connect Paraguay, through Brazil, to the Pacific; the paving of some sections of the bi-oceanic corridor between Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile; the completion of the Qazvin-Rasht railway line linking Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation; the construction of a railway line linking the Lao People's Democratic Republic with China (Boten-Vientiane), which is under way; the construction of Kazungula bridge between Botswana and Zambia; and the implementation of a joint Dar es Salaam-Isaka-Kigali railway project between Rwanda and Tanzania, along the Central Corridor, the studies for which have been completed and which is now in the resource mobilization phase.

21. Despite the progress made, more needs to be done to achieve adequate infrastructure. Key challenges to road and railway infrastructure development include missing links, operational limitations and limited funding.

22. Rivers and waterways provide the primary routes for Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, carrying over 70 per cent of exports and imports. Investments in waterways are critical and it is necessary to promote common regional policies to address resilience and sustainability.

23. The global share of landlocked developing countries in freight transport by air decreased from 1.2 per cent in 2017 to 1 per cent in 2018. Some of those countries, including the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda and Zambia, are undertaking airport construction and/or modernization projects. The African continent continues to make progress in the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market. Despite the efforts made by landlocked developing countries to advance their aviation sectors, major challenges include inadequate infrastructure, operational limitations and limited funding.

24. The transport sector has experienced an unprecedented impact from the containment measures, travel restrictions and border closures imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The air transport industry has been the hardest hit as it is forecasted that airlines will have fewer international air travellers in 2020 and the international seat capacity could drop by almost three quarters. Although Governments have gone to great lengths to try to maintain an uninterrupted flow of cross-border freight, most regions have experienced a decrease in freight transport. In the States members of the Economic Commission for Europe, regional rail freight transport has been largely exempted from restriction measures, but operators have reported a reduction in freight volumes of 20 to 50 per cent owing to the economic slowdown. A decrease in road freight has been reported in all regions as there has been an increased incidence of empty running and a decline in demand. It has also been reported that some countries are diverting investment meant for transport infrastructure development towards the fight against COVID-19.

25. The average proportion of the population with access to electricity in landlocked developing countries increased, from 56.3 per cent in 2017 to 58.7 per cent in 2018; however, landlocked developing countries still lag behind the world average of 89.6 per cent, and there is still a wide rural/urban gap. Progress on access to clean cooking fuels and technologies has been slow, and was estimated to be 27 per cent in 2018, which is much lower than the world average of 63 per cent. The share of renewable energy in total energy consumption in landlocked developing countries was 44 per cent in 2017 – much higher than the world average of 17.3 per cent. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need for reliable and affordable electricity

at health facilities, for faster clearing processes at borders and for ensuring access to digital services. Stimulus packages introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic present an opportunity to invest in the renewable energy sector to sustainably meet energy needs and create jobs.

26. With regard to ICT, the proportion of the population covered by at least a 2G mobile network in landlocked developing countries increased from 88.2 per cent in 2017 to 92.3 per cent in 2018. The proportion of individuals using the Internet in landlocked developing countries was estimated to be 25.3 per cent in 2018, which is significantly below the world average of 51.4 per cent. The landlocked developing countries continue to face high costs for broadband, and more efforts are required to lower prices. The COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted that digital connectivity can enable the delivery of essential services while complying with social distancing protocols, including through remote learning, telemedicine, e-commerce, online meetings, telework and online access to government services. The importance of the digitalization of transit and customs procedures has also been thrown into relief. Investments need to be stepped up in that regard to reduce the digital divide.

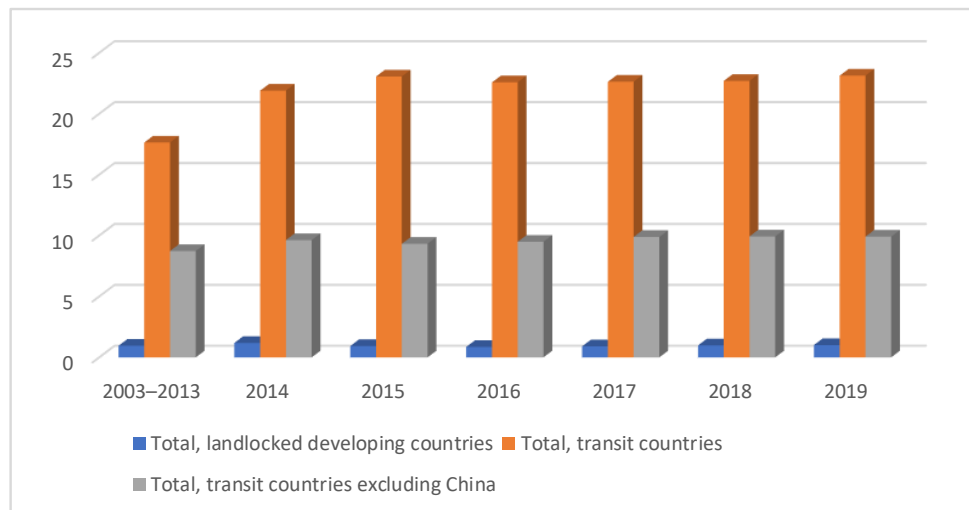
### Priority 3: international trade and trade facilitation

27. Geographical challenges, remoteness from international markets and the resulting high trade costs contribute to the marginalization of landlocked developing countries from international trade. Those challenges are further exacerbated by their heavy dependence on exports of primary commodities.

28. International trade is critically important to the economies of landlocked developing countries, as demonstrated by their average trade-to-GDP ratio of 66 per cent in 2018. Despite this, their share of global merchandise exports remains relatively low and has decreased overall since 2014, even though it did increase slightly from 0.99 per cent in 2018 to 1.01 per cent in 2019. Therefore, achieving the Vienna Programme of Action specific objective of substantially increasing their exports remains a challenge. Disparities also exist within the group given that just four landlocked developing countries accounted for 56 per cent of the group's total merchandise exports in 2019, while 19 such countries accounted for less than 2 per cent each.

Figure I  
Share of merchandise exports in global trade

(Percentage)



Source: UNCTADstat.

29. Merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries remain undiversified and highly concentrated in commodities, with 26 of those countries being dependent on primary commodities for more than 60 per cent of their exports. The product concentration index value of landlocked developing countries declined between 2014 and 2018, meaning that their exports became slightly more diversified. However, exports from those countries are still about four times more concentrated than world exports. Diversification is critical if landlocked developing countries are to move up the value chains and reduce their vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic and other external shocks.

30. Participation of landlocked developing countries in global exports of commercial services also remains negligible, estimated at 0.7 per cent in 2018. Landlocked developing countries are net services importers, with a negative services balance of \$26 billion in 2018.

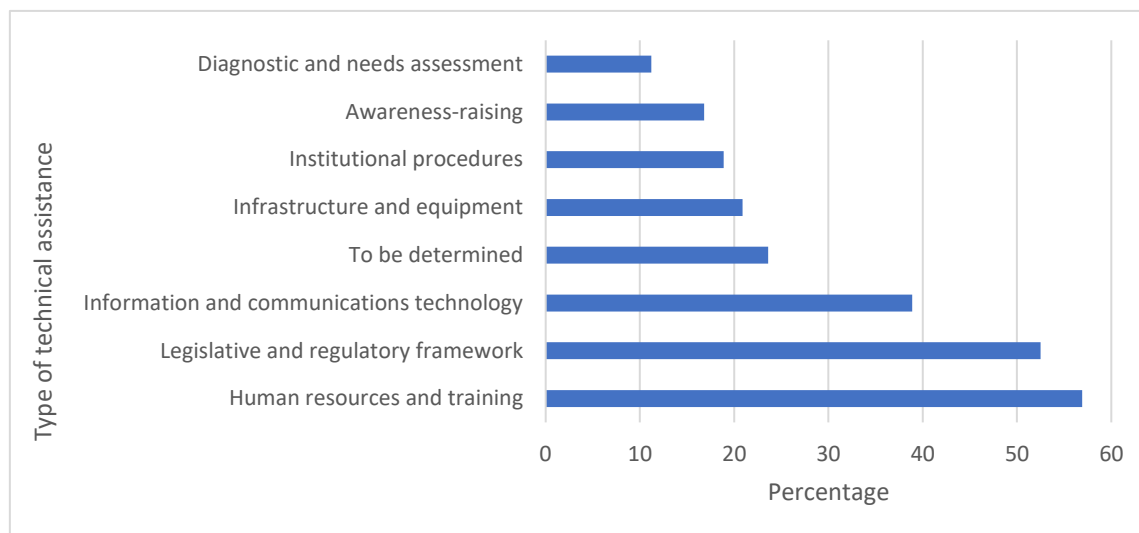
31. As a group, landlocked developing countries have a high trade deficit, which shows that exports are insufficient to finance imports. The trade deficit decreased to \$33.2 billion in 2018 (4.3 per cent of GDP) from \$48.7 billion in 2016 (7.2 per cent of GDP) but remains high and is a source of concern. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could further worsen the situation. Falling prices of commodities undermine what has been the primary driver of exports and economic growth in most landlocked developing countries.

32. It remains of the utmost importance to address the high trade costs faced by landlocked developing countries in order to enhance their integration into world trade and value chains, as well as to leverage the growing e-commerce sector. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries continue to make efforts to implement trade facilitation initiatives, including by further simplifying and harmonizing customs, border and transit procedures and formalities, as well as trade facilitation measures.

33. The implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is fundamental; however, the rate of implementation remains low in both landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries. It is estimated that landlocked developing countries have already implemented 34.7 per cent of all notifiable measures, while 24.3 per cent have been designated to be implemented with additional time, and 40.3 per cent have been designated as needing technical assistance for implementation. Implementation differs across regions: European and Latin American landlocked developing countries have already implemented 68.6 per cent and 63 per cent of the measures, respectively, while African and Asian landlocked developing countries have implemented 29.4 per cent and 24.9 per cent, respectively. Transit developing countries have implemented 51 per cent of their obligations.

34. Pursuant to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, developing country members are required to notify their technical assistance and capacity-building needs. Landlocked developing countries have identified human resources and training, legislative and regulatory frameworks and ICT as their primary concerns, in order of importance (see figure II).

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



Source: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Database.

35. Owing to the reliance of landlocked developing countries on transit countries for international trade, restrictive measures introduced at the borders to curb the spread of COVID-19 have greatly affected the importation and exportation of goods by landlocked developing countries, including for essential goods such as medical supplies and food products.

#### Priority 4: regional integration and cooperation

36. Interest has been growing in regional integration and cooperation among landlocked developing countries and their neighbours, especially in the field of trade. On average, a landlocked developing country is a party to four regional trade agreements, with the number of agreements per country ranging from 1 to 11. Many of those agreements cover goods and only a few cover services.

37. The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area entered into force on 30 May 2019 and, as at May 2020, a total of 54 of the 55 States members of the African Union, including all landlocked developing countries, had signed the Agreement. Trade in goods and services is liberalized in the first phase of negotiations; common rules on competition policy, intellectual property rights and investment are created in the second phase; and digital trade and e-commerce are addressed in the third phase.

38. In Asia, in November 2019, the countries participating in the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia launched the Ashgabat Initiative, on the reduction of barriers to trade and transport in the region. The initiative is aimed at reducing non-tariff barriers to trade, addressing physical and non-physical barriers to transport and fostering sustainable transport and trade facilitation.

39. In 2019, representatives of seven countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) joined forces to strengthen cooperation in inland transport infrastructure development, facilitation of border-crossing procedures, railway and intermodal transport development and improvement of road safety. Tri-national cooperation between Bangladesh, Bhutan and India led to the recent launch of inland waterways along the Brahmaputra river,



which is expected to facilitate trade and transit between Bangladesh and Bhutan, reducing the transportation cost of export goods by almost one third and decreasing the time by half.

40. In Latin America, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay have continued to formalize agreements in sectors such as transport, energy and mining, including an agreement to create a binational cabinet to address issues of cooperation, such as the strengthening of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, the construction of gas pipelines and agricultural matters.

41. Regional integration and cooperation offer an opportunity for countries to jointly meet the challenges of COVID-19. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation established a COVID-19 emergency fund, made up of voluntary contributions from members. Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) connected with their counterparts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea under the ASEAN Plus Three framework to exchange information on containment and mitigation measures and identify needs for technical support and medical supplies. An ASEAN-European Union ministerial videoconference was held in March 2020 to discuss the immediate and long-term measures to combat the virus, including the importance of boosting trade and investment when the pandemic subsides.

42. Notwithstanding the examples of regional integration outlined above, the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected regional integration in some cases, as global production decreased and many countries closed their borders to curb the spread of the virus.

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

43. The contribution of various sectors to GDP has, on average, remained more or less stable in landlocked developing countries since 2010, which suggests that little progress has been made with regard to structural economic transformation. Between 2016 and 2019, the share of manufacturing value added in GDP in those countries remained between 10.2 and 10.4 per cent. Value added per worker in the manufacturing sector was just \$198 in 2019, compared with the global average of \$1,798. The share of agriculture in GDP continued to decline, reaching 14.7 per cent in 2018, before rising to 16.2 per cent in 2019.

44. The share of services value added in GDP in landlocked developing countries declined from 47.3 per cent in 2017 to 46.6 per cent in 2019. Trade in services accounted, on average, for 14 per cent of the GDP of those countries in 2018. Travel-related expenditure and transport are their largest export service sectors. However, the participation of those countries in global exports of commercial services is still negligible. The landlocked developing countries in which international tourism receipts account for a large proportion of their exports will be the hardest hit by the plummeting tourism as a result of COVID-19.

45. One of the reasons for the lack of structural transformation in landlocked developing countries is their weak levels of productive capacities. The overall score of those countries in the productive capacities index of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)<sup>1</sup> is 26.1, which is among the lowest compared with developed countries (41.7) and other developing countries (33.2) and is slightly lower than transit countries (26.7). While there has been improvement across the main indicators, insufficient progress has been made to foster structural economic transformation in landlocked developing countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The index ranges from 0 to 100.

46. In a world of increasing digitalization, science, technology and innovation are important in driving productivity growth and potentially helping landlocked developing countries to move up value chains. In 2017, research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP amounted to just 0.21 per cent, compared with a global average of 1.72 per cent. Those countries should see the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to accelerate progress on the pursuit of new technologies, especially digital finance and other digital services.

47. Some landlocked developing countries have made progress in providing an enabling environment for private sector development. In the 2020 edition of the World Bank's *Doing Business* report, six of those countries ranked in the top 50 countries in the overall ease of doing business rankings, and nine ranked in the top 50 in the category of starting a business. At the same time, almost a third of the landlocked developing countries ranked in the bottom quarter in terms of overall ease of doing business.

48. The challenges to doing business will be further compounded by the economic impacts of the lockdown measures associated with COVID-19 and the global economic slowdown. The private sector in landlocked developing countries, consisting mainly of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, has been hit particularly hard, from both the supply and the demand sides. Access to credit remains one of the biggest challenges for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked developing countries. In addition, the smallest enterprises are often run by women, operate in the informal economy and lack social protection, and are therefore the most likely to suffer the impacts of the economic downturn. A widespread collapse of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises could have a damaging impact on the economies of landlocked developing countries, resulting in a contraction of their incomes and falling fiscal revenues. At the same time, new opportunities and business models are emerging in the wake of COVID-19 that could be taken advantage of by landlocked developing countries.

#### **Priority 6: means of implementation**

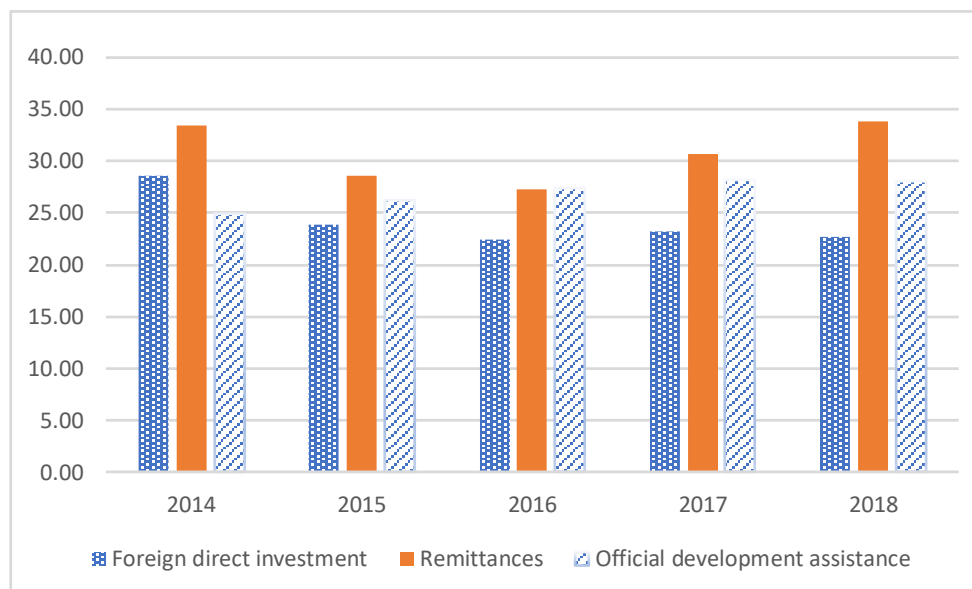
49. In 2018, official development assistance (ODA) to landlocked developing countries decreased from \$29.2 billion in 2017 to \$28 billion at constant prices (2018), accounting for 16.9 per cent of the total ODA to developing countries. As a percentage of the gross national income of landlocked developing countries, ODA decreased from 3.91 per cent in 2017 to 3.68 per cent in 2018. ODA flows continue to be concentrated in a few landlocked developing countries. In 2018, five countries received almost half of all ODA flows.

50. Despite the recent fall in ODA, it remains a critical source of external development finance and an important means for landlocked developing countries to support national responses to the COVID-19 crisis. Such assistance is important for those countries to continue and enhance investments in health care, education and social safety nets, as well as to meet humanitarian needs. In 2018, aid for trade disbursements to those countries amounted to \$7.6 billion, up slightly from 2017. The disbursement accounted for 17 per cent of the \$45.4 billion total for 2018.

51. Between 2018 and 2019, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to landlocked developing countries declined by 1 per cent to \$22 billion. The share of those countries in global FDI inflows was 1.4 per cent in 2019. FDI inflows to those countries are also concentrated, with the top seven landlocked developing country recipients accounting for 70 per cent of inflows in 2019. Furthermore, the majority of FDI flows are to the extractive sectors. UNCTAD has predicted a fall in global FDI flows of between 30 and 40 per cent in 2020 owing to the impact of COVID-19.

**Figure III**  
**Official development assistance, foreign direct investment and remittances to landlocked developing countries**

(Current prices in billions of United States dollars)



*Source:* UNCTAD, World Development Indicators and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

52. Remittance flows to landlocked developing countries increased by 11.4 per cent between 2017 and 2019, to \$34.1 billion in 2019. As is the case for ODA and foreign direct investment, remittance flows are also concentrated in a few landlocked developing countries, with five countries accounting for more than 55 per cent of total inflows in 2019. It is important to note that remittances are used mainly to address household consumption rather than development finance needs. Remittances are predicted to drop significantly in 2020 owing to COVID-19.

53. A total of 13 landlocked developing countries are already classified as highly indebted poor countries, with some having an external debt stock that is higher than their gross national income. The external debt of many landlocked developing countries is predominantly private non-guaranteed debt, which increased from 14 per cent in 2000 to 47 per cent in 2018. Total debt servicing averaged 20 per cent of the export revenue of landlocked developing countries in 2018. Given that so much of their debt is owed to private creditors, many landlocked developing countries may find it difficult to receive moratoriums on debt servicing or meaningful debt relief; substantial relief on the public and publicly guaranteed portion of their debt will therefore remain critical.

#### **IV. Follow-up and review**

54. The Secretary-General launched a \$2 billion global humanitarian response plan to fund the fight against COVID-19 in the world's poorest countries. Armenia, Bhutan, Eswatini, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are benefiting from the fund, which strengthens their response to and recovery from the pandemic in the humanitarian and development realms.

55. 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 to ensure the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including by coordinating the preparatory process for the high-level comprehensive midterm review on its implementation. The Office worked with partners to organize the remaining thematic pre-conference meetings, including an ambassadorial retreat on the outcome of the midterm review; an expert group meeting on transit cooperation and trade facilitation; a meeting on best practices in corridor development and management; and side events during major conferences on trade facilitation and sustainable energy. The Office supported the organization of the midterm review and coordinated and co-organized with partners a total of seven side events during the midterm review. The meetings were aimed at raising awareness of the challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries and supported the exchange of best practices and peer learning. The Office also organized meetings of the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and initiated the process of development of terms of reference for the Inter-agency Consultative Group to enhance coherence of planning and activities on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

56. Over the reporting period, the Economic Commission for Africa provided technical assistance to landlocked developing countries to leverage the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area by supporting the preparation of related national strategies and through policy advocacy and consensus-building activities. The Commission also provided capacity-building activities, including on trade facilitation, energy modelling, the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Railway Rolling Stock, WTO accession and the financing of activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals. A resolution was adopted during the 2019 Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development calling for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the region.

57. The Economic Commission for Europe organized several meetings, events and capacity-building activities on topics such as the digitalization of transit processes, regional transport connectivity and trade facilitation. It is developing a set of sustainable inland transport connectivity indicators for selected landlocked and transit countries, and has created an online observatory on border crossings status due to COVID-19.

58. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean developed recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the region, focusing on enhancing transport facilitation; strengthening productive transformation; increasing efficiency, productivity, resilience and sustainability of infrastructure and logistics services; and establishing regionally coordinated logistics and mobility policies.

59. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific continued to support landlocked developing countries in the region in enhancing transport connectivity and facilitating cross-border trade and transport operations. It supported initiatives to commercialize railway corridors involving landlocked developing countries and to build capacity for the development of cross-border energy connectivity. The Commission also supported the strengthening of national statistical systems in landlocked developing countries and provided capacity-building support to accelerate actions to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In 2019, the Commission published a report entitled *Asia's Landlocked Developing Countries: Structural Transformation, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development*.

60. UNCTAD continued to provide a range of technical assistance and capacity-building activities to support landlocked developing countries, including by organizing training on the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, assisting in the negotiation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, conducting e-commerce readiness assessments, hosting workshops on export diversification and conducting investment policy reviews. UNCTAD has also developed a productive capacities index to benchmark and assess the levels of productive capacities in all landlocked developing countries, which is scheduled to be launched in 2020.

61. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization supported landlocked developing countries in their implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action by offering its technical, statistical and advisory expertise, and through efforts to create synergies and partnerships capable of mobilizing the necessary funds aimed at environmental safeguarding, energy development, sustained economic growth, agribusiness industries and inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including the economic empowerment of women and young persons. The Organization is operationalizing the Programme for Country Partnership in four landlocked developing countries.

62. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is working to ensure that the concerns of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, with regard to sustainable transport receive particular focus in the context of the second Global Conference on Sustainable Transport. The Department has also prepared a policy brief on COVID-19 and landlocked developing countries.

63. The United Nations Environment Programme has been strengthening countries' adaptation capacities and resilience to climate-related shocks by providing targeted financial and technical support for preparing improved assessments for prioritized technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support adaptation to climate change. It is also supporting the transition towards an inclusive green economy in Africa through the Switch Africa Green programme.

64. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supported the establishment of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, which brings together developed and developing countries to build synergies to reach the goal of creating disaster-resilient infrastructure. A total of 24 landlocked developing countries are reporting on the target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 through the Sendai Framework Monitor developed by the Office.

65. The International Trade Centre continued to support landlocked developing countries in addressing trade-related constraints by providing tailor-made innovative solutions through the delivery of country-specific and regional projects, including on building productive capacity, reducing commodity dependence, strengthening trade, improving access to finance, integrating women and young persons into value chains and growing green trade, with a strong focus on the private sector, in particular micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

66. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided capacity-building support to help the least developed landlocked developing countries to implement the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in areas such as national climate change secretariats, negotiating skills, adaptation technology development and transfer, and weather and climate information. It also provided support for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions.

67. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa supported landlocked developing countries in setting their land degradation neutrality targets and in mobilizing technical and financial support for the early stage development of transformative projects and programmes to implement national targets. As at May 2020, a total of 25 landlocked developing countries had successfully set their land degradation neutrality targets with the support of the secretariat of the Convention, and two were in the process of setting those targets.

68. The International Telecommunication Union provides capacity-building and technical assistance, training and advisory services to landlocked developing countries on ICT development and connectivity, in particular with regard to the development of sustainable broadband and of national broadband policies, affordable access to ICT services and their applications in the health, education, industry and environment sectors. In 2019, the International Telecommunication Union and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States jointly published a report on the economic impact of broadband in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

69. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supported landlocked developing countries in strengthening their structural transformation and resilience by promoting and supporting innovation in agriculture and food systems; the enhancement of agricultural productivity and production; sustainable crop management and food production; climate-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture and food systems; and agricultural mechanization. The Organization supported small-scale farmers and helped countries to access Global Environment Facility and Global Conservation Fund financing and to build or strengthen agriculture statistical systems. The Organization also supported landlocked developing countries in strengthening capacities for international trade and trade facilitation in the areas of agricultural products and agriculture value chains.

70. The International Civil Aviation Organization developed guidance for Member States on the establishment of a national aviation planning framework aimed at helping to position aviation within their national development planning instruments. The Organization has provided support and guidance to States and the civil aviation industry with regard to the unprecedented impact on air transport amid the COVID-19 crisis, including by enabling expedited air cargo movements and coordinated delivery of humanitarian goods through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service.

71. The United Nations Development Programme is supporting landlocked developing countries in their socioeconomic response to COVID-19.

72. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation supported landlocked developing countries through tailor-made services, demand-driven capacity-building and advocacy for South-South cooperation and facilitating South-South cooperation through the established network of national focal points and its expansion, ensuring increased access for landlocked developing countries to climate funds and a digital knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering platform.

73. The World Tourism Organization supported landlocked developing countries in such activities as the development of national tourism strategy plans, the assessment and development of tourism satellite accounts and hotel classification.

74. WTO, through the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility, supported landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, including through a Geneva-based retreat and workshop, drop-in sessions for one-on-one assistance and a national workshop for the Central African Republic. The

Standards and Trade Development Facility has implemented activities to help exporters in landlocked developing countries to meet strict sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.

75. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries organized conferences and workshops on transit transport corridors; ICT and transport infrastructure development; trade logistics; regional cooperation; technology and innovation; and structural economic transformation. The Think Tank continued to contribute to strengthening the analytical capacity of landlocked developing countries by disseminating the findings from its research on the economic diversification of those countries and the prospects of the Belt and Road Initiative for their trade and competitiveness.

76. The World Customs Organization continued to deliver capacity-building, technical assistance and training to assist customs administrations, including those in landlocked developing countries, in a broad range of customs-related areas. The Organization compiled a compendium of best practices in the area of transit aimed at reducing trade costs and expediting international trade.

77. In 2019, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe organized capacity-building activities and targeted training on inland transport security, connectivity and sustainability, the implementation of trade facilitation reforms, transit transport development and facilitation and customs and border regulations in selected landlocked developing countries in Europe and Asia.

78. The Common Fund for Commodities continued to invest in projects to promote the structural economic transformation of commodity sectors in landlocked developing countries. In 2019, the Fund received 34 project proposals from landlocked developing countries, 4 of which were considered to receive financing in the amount of \$2.7 million. The Fund is also supporting a few selected impact investment funds targeting the development of commodity sectors, including in landlocked developing countries.

79. The International Renewable Energy Agency has provided advice and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries on policy, finance and technology related aspects of renewable energy. To date, the Agency has supported the development of a renewables readiness assessment tool, which has been used to identify existing policy and regulatory limitations and formulate recommendations to maximize countries' full and unique resource potential, in nine landlocked developing countries. The tool is being developed in another two landlocked developing countries and is in the planning stage in a third.

80. The Mekong River Commission undertook analytical assessments and projects to enhance navigation and support the harmonization and implementation of common standards, rules and regulations for navigation and safety of ports and vessels along the Greater Mekong River.

81. The International Road Transport Union continued to raise awareness and undertake capacity-building efforts for landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and support the process of digitalization of the eTIR system.

82. The Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority continued to promote cooperative transport policies and foster an efficient and cost-effective transit transport system within the Corridor, which includes four landlocked developing countries.

83. The European Union supported trade facilitation in landlocked developing countries through its Aid for Trade strategy; encouraged landlocked developing countries to engage in regional integration; provided capacity-building for mobilizing and making better use of all means of implementation; promoted renewable energy, clean technologies and decarbonization of energy-intensive industries; helped landlocked developing countries to devise ambitious nationally determined contributions; and was working with the United Nations to assist interested countries in developing integrated national financing frameworks, including in four landlocked developing countries. The European Union and its member States, as Team Europe, mobilized more than 23 billion euros to help the most vulnerable and affected partner countries, including landlocked developing countries, to address the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

84. The Green Climate Fund supported countries' efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change. Through the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, the Fund supported landlocked developing countries in strengthening their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms and policy, planning and programming frameworks to promote a transformational long-term climate action agenda and the formulation of national adaptation plans. Since 2015, the Fund has approved 45 projects that provide \$1.3 billion of financing to 25 landlocked developing countries.

85. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has, since 2016, approved eight projects for a total of \$1.05 billion in six landlocked developing countries, which together account for 8 per cent of the total amount approved by the Bank for all such projects, including \$67.5 million for the transport sector and \$909 million for the energy sector.

86. The International Monetary Fund approved debt service relief to 10 landlocked developing countries to help to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund's Executive Board also approved requests for emergency assistance for Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

87. The World Bank Group is helping landlocked developing countries to strengthen their pandemic response, increase disease surveillance, improve public health interventions and support the private sector in continuing to operate and sustain jobs through different facilities, including a dedicated COVID-19 fast-track facility, the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund and the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility.

88. The African Development Bank supported projects that promote regional integration, including development of infrastructure, regional value chains and regional power pools. The African Development Bank also provided capacity-building and technical assistance on trade facilitation and transport for African landlocked developing countries.

89. The Inter-American Development Bank had an active portfolio of 44 projects in Paraguay and 32 projects in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in areas such as transport, energy, water and sanitation, health care, financial markets, urban development, science, environment, tourism and governance.

90. The African Development Bank approved loans and grants valued at \$3.285 billion for 25 COVID-19 response projects in landlocked developing countries. Over the period 2020–2022, the African Development Bank also plans to provide \$3.154 billion to finance a total of 23 investment projects in landlocked developing countries to improve transport connectivity; \$3.598 billion for 17 investment projects in the energy sector; and \$444 million for 8 investment projects to support development in the agricultural sector.



## **V. Road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years**

91. At the request of the Chair and the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other international and regional organizations, members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Landlocked Developing Countries developed a road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years that contained a detailed mapping of activities and deliverables by the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations. The key areas for action were transport infrastructure, transit and trade facilitation; energy; ICT and digital connectivity; structural transformation; cooperation between landlocked developing countries and transit countries; means of implementation; climate change and environmental degradation; COVID-19; and coordination. The road map will be a living document, evolving with the support of the United Nations for landlocked developing countries.

## **VI. Conclusions and recommendations**

92. The midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action revealed that while some tangible progress had been made in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and towards achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals, major gaps and challenges still needed to be addressed. The COVID-19 crisis is having an unprecedented development impact on landlocked developing countries and may cause serious reversals in the development gains that had been made in landlocked developing countries.

93. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the political declaration of the midterm review in the remaining five years needs to be anchored in strong efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 and drive a transformative recovery aimed at reducing vulnerability to future crises and to ensure that landlocked developing countries can make the progress necessary towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and respond to the ambition and urgency of the decade of action for the Goals. Those efforts will require increased international cooperation and multilateralism.

94. United Nations entities should aim to effectively implement the road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in order to protect development gains and contribute to the transformative change needed in landlocked developing countries.

95. The immediate priority of the international community, landlocked developing countries and transit partners should therefore be to address the health-related and socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and to ensure an effective recovery. At the level of landlocked developing countries, that means strengthening investments in domestic health-care systems, ensuring food security and supporting the domestic economic sectors and populations that are most affected by the economic fallout of the pandemic and related lockdown measures. Significant additional resources will be needed, and international cooperation and technical assistance will be essential to help landlocked developing countries. Those countries require fiscal support, in the form of financial support, special credit lines, grants, tax and social contribution relief, wage subsidies and the extension of social protection, to stimulate the economy and support enterprises, jobs and incomes.

96. At the regional level, there is a need to develop efficient transport systems that are resilient to crises. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries should aim to direct fiscal arrangements and stimulus packages to improve transport connectivity. Development partners, international financial institutions, United Nations system entities, other international and regional organizations and the private sector should support landlocked developing countries and transit countries in those efforts.

97. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened the importance of digital technologies in increasing access to health care, education, trade facilitation and e-commerce. The international community, regional organizations and the private sector should support landlocked developing countries in closing the digital divide.

98. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries should work together to ensure smooth functioning at borders and in transit to facilitate the flow of essential goods. The use of border measures designed to tackle COVID-19 has to be transparent, targeted, proportionate and consistent with WTO rules. There is a need for the expedited release and clearance of essential goods, faster delivery of humanitarian goods and greater use of digital technologies that limit physical checks in transit and physical contact at borders, and that protect the health of workers, such as the electronic exchange of information, single-window facilities and paperless solutions. Development partners, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations are called upon to support landlocked developing countries and transit countries with technical and financial support towards strengthening trade facilitation and digitalization efforts.

99. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for landlocked developing countries to strengthen their resilience to external shocks. There is a need for enhanced support targeted at value addition and the diversification of exports. Strengthened efforts are needed to build productive capacities in landlocked developing countries, including by building core infrastructure, identifying and supporting sectors with higher value added and potential for export diversification, and strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation. The international community is called upon to support landlocked developing countries in building their productive capacities and diversifying their economies.

100. Landlocked developing countries are called upon to foster an enabling environment for the private sector to increase domestic and foreign investment and engage in public-private partnerships. Those countries should strive to develop special economic zones as an effective strategy for attracting FDI to desired industrial sectors. The private sector should scale up investments in transformative activities in landlocked developing countries, such as renewable energy, agriculture and sectors that can bring about structural transformation. In addition, landlocked developing countries need to strengthen sustainable energy entrepreneurship and innovation, including the promotion of women entrepreneurs in all sectors of industrial production.

101. Multilateral and regional development banks are called upon to work more closely with landlocked developing countries to support them in making investments and catalysing private finance for addressing gaps in areas such as transport infrastructure, renewable energy, ICT, digitalization and climate action.

102. Initiatives to support micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises have to be developed quickly for maximum effect, without imposing burdensome requirements for accessing finance. Providing enhanced finance and access to credit, especially for entrepreneurs and start-ups, ensuring links to formal production systems and firms and employing ICT and innovation in business operations may help in building the resilience of the economies of landlocked developing countries in the post-COVID-19 era. Enhanced technology transfer to landlocked developing countries should be encouraged, including through FDI and South-South cooperation.

103. Development partners are encouraged to increase ODA flows to landlocked developing countries in the form of grants, including through enhanced crisis response mechanisms to support their response to the COVID-19 crisis. Those countries should better leverage ODA to attract further finance from other sources, such as foreign direct investment, public-private sector partnerships and South-South cooperation. In the spirit of solidarity and South-South cooperation, countries of the South should strive to increase financial and technical assistance for landlocked developing countries.

104. Creditors are encouraged to take bolder actions to support landlocked developing countries with debt relief in order to free up liquidity and invest more in their health-care systems and economic recovery, including by suspending debt repayments to international creditors, offering debt for health swaps, channelling additional funds to health systems and financing regional development projects in exchange for debt relief.

105. Development partners, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations are urged to support landlocked developing countries' efforts to address climate change, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss, drought, receding glaciers and related disasters, including through the development and implementation of national long-term climate change strategies and national adaptation plans. They are also urged to develop tools and capacities to strengthen integrated water resources management, disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response, and early warning and early-action systems. The international community is called upon to assist landlocked developing countries in accessing the required funding.

106. Landlocked developing countries should aim to build enhanced, genuine, effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels – national, subregional, regional and international – in order to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to build economic resilience and diversified economies in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

107. The United Nations system and other international and regional organizations are urged to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to capture high-quality, reliable and timely data in order to monitor progress against the specific objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action.

## Statistical tables

Table 1  
Gross domestic product, rate of growth, official development assistance and foreign direct investment

<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>	<i>GDP (constant 2015 prices, billions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Real GDP growth (percentage)</i>		<i>Official development assistance (constant 2018 prices, millions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Foreign direct investment inflows (millions of United States dollars)</i>	
	2017	2018	2018	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2017	2018	2018	2019
Afghanistan	22.3	22.3	0.2	2.4	3 956	3 792	139	39
Armenia	11.4	12.0	5.2	7.6	271	141	254	255
Azerbaijan	51.3	52.0	1.4	2.2	126	87	1 403	1 504
Bhutan	2.3	2.4	3.0	5.2	123	106	6	7
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	35.9	37.4	4.2	3.0	992	730	255	-160
Botswana	15.5	16.2	4.5	3.5	105	86	229	261
Burkina Faso	13.3	14.2	6.8	5.9	932	1 114	480	208
Burundi	3.0	3.0	0.1	1.2	456	451	1	1
Central African Republic	1.8	1.9	3.9	3.8	535	656	18	26
Chad	11.1	11.3	1.5	2.9	678	875	662	567
Eswatini	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.7	153	120	25	130
Ethiopia	81.4	88.0	8.0	8.5	4 292	4 941	3 310	2 516
Kazakhstan	194.0	201.9	4.1	4.2	60	80	3 817	3 118
Kyrgyzstan	7.3	7.6	3.5	4.5	478	416	47	209
Lao People's Democratic Republic	16.5	17.5	6.2	5.0	497	568	1 320	557
Lesotho	2.5	2.6	1.2	1.0	150	154	39	118
Malawi	6.9	7.2	4.0	4.3	1 579	1 275	102	98
Mali	15.2	16.2	6.7	5.1	1 418	1 500	366	494
Mongolia	12.6	13.5	7.0	4.9	781	333	2 174	2 443
Nepal	23.9	25.6	7.0	6.5	1 320	1 452	161	185
Niger	10.7	11.5	7.0	5.7	1 281	1 197	460	593
North Macedonia	10.4	10.7	2.7	3.6	155	170	737	365
Paraguay	39.6	41.1	3.7	0.0	150	164	454	478
Republic of Moldova	8.5	8.7	2.8	4.6	254	230	228	589

	<i>GDP (constant 2015 prices, billions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Real GDP growth (percentage)</i>		<i>Official development assistance (constant 2018 prices, millions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Foreign direct investment inflows (millions of United States dollars)</i>	
	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Rwanda	9.3	10.1	8.6	9.0	1 284	1 119	398	420
South Sudan	13.2	13.0	-1.1	5.8	2 268	1 577	191	18
Tajikistan	9.0	9.6	7.1	7.5	340	399	317	213
Turkmenistan	40.8	43.3	6.2	6.3	29	20	1 985	2 166
Uganda	27.0	29.4	8.9	5.5	2 088	1 943	1 337	1 266
Uzbekistan	90.7	95.4	5.1	5.5	658	558	412	2 286
Zambia	22.4	23.3	4.1	1.5	1 076	996	569	753
Zimbabwe	21.1	22.1	4.8	-5.6	754	794	745	280
<b>Total/average</b>	<b>835.1</b>	<b>875.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>29 239</b>	<b>28 043</b>	<b>22 641</b>	<b>22 002</b>

*Source:* Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

*Abbreviation:* GDP, gross domestic product.

<sup>a</sup> Estimated.

Table 2  
**Merchandise exports and sectoral contributions to the economy**

	<i>Share of merchandise exports in global trade (percentage)</i>		<i>Manufacturing, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>		<i>Agriculture, forestry and fishing, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>		<i>Services, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Afghanistan	0.005	0.006	..	..	20.25	21.13	52.63	52.08
Armenia	0.012	0.014	11.27	11.74	13.94	11.99	52.62	54.23
Azerbaijan	0.104	0.106	4.62	5.01	5.21	5.72	35.28	37.36
Bhutan	0.003	0.003	7.53	..	15.89	..	39.93	..
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.046	0.046	10.34	10.49	11.48	12.22	49.09	50.72
Botswana	0.034	0.027	5.15	5.25	1.99	1.95	59.41	60.62
Burkina Faso	0.017	0.018	9.41	9.91	20.42	20.30	41.75	43.96
Burundi	0.001	0.001	..	..	29.01	28.90	49.11	47.94
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	18.13	18.64	31.24	32.43	41.97	43.57
Chad	0.016	0.012	2.87	2.85	45.10	42.59	37.53	40.47
Eswatini	0.009	0.011	28.85	29.39	8.59	8.77	53.68	53.15
Ethiopia	0.014	0.015	5.83	5.58	31.22	33.88	36.41	36.87
Kazakhstan	0.313	0.303	11.43	11.38	4.40	4.44	55.45	55.47
Kyrgyzstan	0.009	0.010	14.26	14.30	11.68	12.09	49.77	50.24
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.027	0.031	7.45	7.48	15.71	15.29	41.61	42.65
Lesotho	0.006	0.005	16.25	15.95	4.38	4.38	51.28	51.45
Malawi	0.004	0.005	..	..	26.33	25.54	52.59	54.38
Mali	0.018	0.018	2.72	3.01	37.39	37.32	33.75	33.12
Mongolia	0.036	0.040	9.45	9.61	10.79	11.01	39.30	39.03
Nepal	0.004	0.005	4.99	4.98	25.76	24.26	51.00	50.61
Niger	0.006	0.007	6.26	6.18	38.44	38.18	37.84	38.07
North Macedonia	0.035	0.038	..	..	8.54	8.77	54.37	54.58
Paraguay	0.046	0.041	18.92	18.30	10.24	10.08	49.06	50.42
Republic of Moldova	0.014	0.015	11.21	10.89	10.27	9.86	53.55	54.25
Rwanda	0.006	0.006	7.55	8.19	24.64	24.07	49.78	49.27
South Sudan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tajikistan	0.006	0.006	10.50	..	19.20	..	42.10	..
Turkmenistan	0.049	0.053	..	..	..	..	..	..

	<i>Share of merchandise exports in global trade (percentage)</i>		<i>Manufacturing, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>		<i>Agriculture, forestry and fishing, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>		<i>Services, value added (percentage of GDP)</i>	
	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Uganda	0.016	0.018	15.82	15.45	22.81	21.92	43.45	43.32
Uzbekistan	0.058	0.085	16.96	19.57	27.95	25.52	31.85	32.25
Zambia	0.046	0.039	7.77	..	2.79	2.74	54.01	50.03
Zimbabwe	0.023	0.023	10.59	..	8.30	..	61.28	..
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.985</b>	<b>1.007</b>	<b>10.18</b>	<b>10.42</b>	<b>14.71</b>	<b>16.22</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>46.6</b>

Source: UNCTADstat and World Bank.  
Abbreviation: GDP, gross domestic product.