

Meeting of the Group of Friends of LLDCs on Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3)

Friday, 1 November 2024, 9:00 am – 09:45 am

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations

SUMMARY

The meeting of the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) took place on 1 November 2024 at the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations.

Convened by the Co-Chairs of the Group (Permanent Representatives of Austria and India) and the Chair of the Group of LLDCs (Botswana, serving as ex officio member), with the support of UN-OHRLLS, the meeting provide updates and review preparations for the upcoming third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3), scheduled for December 10-13, 2024, in Gaborone, Botswana.

The meeting brought together representatives from more than 41 development partners, transit countries and LLDCs.

The meeting discussions recognized the development challenges faced by the 32 LLDCs, the value of the LLDC3 Conference as an opportunity to support the LLDCs, and provided updates and an opportunity for feedback on preparations for the Conference.

UN-OHRLLS updated that registration and inscription for the Conference is now open and encouraged the sharing of information on the co 1 522.2 34a0 18 Tm0 g0 G0 G1(d)uesion

The summary below, structured according to the Agenda of the meeting (available in Annex 1), provides a more detailed overview of the meeting's discussions.

1. Welcome remarks by H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

The Permanent Representative welcomed participants to the Permanent Mission of Austria to the

Developing States and Secretary General of the third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries

The USG expressed appreciation for the leadership and dedication shown by key figures and countries in preparing for the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3), scheduled to take place in Gaborone, Botswana, in December 2024. Special thanks were extended to the Permanent Mission of Austria for hosting and to the Ambassadors and co-chairs for their roles in shaping a robust Programme of Action for LLDCs. The USG emphasized the importance of the upcoming conference, urging high-level participation and noting that it is only 39 days away.

H.E. Mr. Thomas Peter Zahneisen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

Announced that Germany would be represented at LLDC3 by Deputy Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Requested to see information on the approved side event and their timings to plan the engagement of the Germany delegation at LLDC3. Indicated that the delegation from Germany to LLDC3 would be broad in breadth including CSOs, youth, and the private sector.

H.E. Mr. Jonathan Shrier, U.S. Deputy Representative to ECOSOC

Listed examples of US supporting LLDCs through bilateral channels and regional projects such as the Lobito corridor. Looked forward to the briefing on 12 November to know more about the answers to some practical questions and to announcements on the roles assigned to speakers in the plenary and roundtables.

H.E. Ms. Tara Soomro, UK Ambassador to ECOSOC

Articulated the importance of the subject of supporting LLDCs especially in the run up to the 4th International Financing for Development Conference in 2025. Announced that UK Minister of Development will attend LLDC3 with a broad delegation. The UK is hosting a side event at LLDC3 and will look to further support the Trust Fund for LLDC3.

H.E. Matete Paul Nena, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations

Expressed his thanks to the Group of Friends of LLDCs for their continuing support to the LLDCs while articulating the challenges that the LLDCs face and their need for dedicated support. Appreciated the Outcome Document that is to be adopted at LLDC3 as an ambitious programme which can be looked forward to.

H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes, Permanent Representative of Lesotho Luxembourg to the United Nations

Expressed congratulations to the Group of Friends for the hosting of the meeting. Raised a question regarding how the political declaration will be practically determined and its form.

H.E. Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo, Permanent representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

Called on all partners to have hands on deck to ensure that the Gaborone Programme of Action can really work on implementation, and make sure the results are really focused on delivering for development.

Annex 1: Agenda

Meeting of the Group of Friends of LLDCs on Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3)

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations

1st November 2024

09:00 – 9:45am

Venue: 633 Third Avenue, 18th Floor