

LLDCRCOs inputs to the SG Report on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of
Action (VPoA)
12 April 2021
Compiled by DCO

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Note: Yellow highlights indicate where additional documents are available (most of them are attached, some can be accessed via links in this compilation)

RCO Azerbaijan

Email from RCO Azerbaijan:

In addition to the input the RCO Economics provided earlier in the process, please refer to the attached document which highlights some of the examples on the implementation of VPoA in Azerbaijan during the pandemic

Priority 1, 3 and 4: Trade, Transit and Customs

- x Import duties on certain goods (mainly medical and sanitizing products) were temporarily removed and export of certain goods (medical supplies and medicinal drug) was temporarily banned. WTO Secretariat was notified, although Azerbaijan is not a member of the WTO.
- x All customs border checkpoints were set to operate at enhanced mode. The medical service of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan issued methodical recommendations (al)3 ()ti,ocai13 <00761.27 TD [(m)4 141yij52 at waly(ec)3 (o)3 ((ale661.27-761.2 >3

- x Health check of drivers of the vehicles crossing transit the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan are made and their smooth movement on condition not to leave the vehicle in the direction of their destination point is provided by accompanying officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Vehicles are provided with fuel to the point of destination.
- x A PCR virus laboratory has been established within the Medical Service Department of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and necessary conditions have been created for appropriate medical examination of customs officers.
- x The State Customs Committee agreed to use places designated in the territory of Baku International Sea Trade Port as warehouse of temporary storage and customs warehouse. The use of these warehouses has created conditions for storage of transit transported goods, continuing its transit by loading goods to containers, railway wagons or auto vehicles.
- x According to the agreement reached with Azerbaijan Railways CJSC compiling of railway bill of lading is not required for rail-ferry transport on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, and railway bill of lading accepted for transporting ferries in Kazakhstan are used.

Priority 4: regional integration and cooperation

- x Azerbaijan is one of the founding members of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (CCTSS). This initiative is seen as key to effective and increased economic and trade cooperation among the Member States, transport and customs cooperation are given a special emphasis.
- x The Extraordinary Summit of the CCTSS was held through a videoconference on 10 April 2020 on the theme of "Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19".

Committee (13 services, the Ministry of Economy (106 services) and the Ministry of Agriculture (22 services). The platform has enabled the automation of services

paperless trade. ESCAP does deliver this tool to any Member State that is interested in conducting readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation –

Economic and financial integration in Central Asia with the RC system in particularly Central Asia could encourage and facilitate the LLDCs in the region to implement the following

- x Diversify and structurally transform the economies and enhance intraregional trade towards strengthening overall economic interlinkages among Central Asian countries. Overall enhancement of economic interlinkages through the regional value chains and intra-regional trade are crucial requisites for enhancement of financial interlinkages and financial integration among countries in Central Asia.
- x Promote the development of local currency bond markets in the region. The existence of well-functioning capital markets, including local currency bond markets, can be very important adjuncts to banking sectors in channeling resources from savers to productive investment regionally.
- x Review the appropriateness of existing controls on capital flows and gradually liberalize the capital account consistent with the overriding need to maintain financial stability.
- x Avoid creating duplicative or potentially conflicting measures.

expanding access to credit and decreasing state regulation based on the "one in, two out" method (abolishing two regulations for each new one introduced). It also aims to attract US 30 billion

the end of 2021, immediate priorities are the supporting policies and investments necessary for the benefits of the improved infrastructure to be realized and shared broadly.

- x The 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2020-2025), recently endorsed by the National Assembly has 6 outcomes, including one with a clear focus on strengthening trade, connectivity infrastructure, and regional integration. The specific language (pending confirmation of translation) is “Robust infrastructure development, utilization of the country’s potentials and strategic location, and active engagement in the regional and international cooperation and integration”

RCO Tajikistan

Email from RCO Tajikistan:

RCO Economist from Tajikistan has already provided inputs to the process. We like to highlight two very important regional dialogues under the UN's SPECA initiative to support the VPoA.

On September 29, 2020, UNECE in partnership with the UNRC organized a regional dialogue to strengthen transport connectivity in the SPECA region and beyond. Participants of the dialogue

agreed to improve infrastructure port systems, and modernize procedures, adopt digital solutions

RCO Malawi

Email from RCO Malawi:

In Malawi's case, the country has been hit hard by the congruence of global and domestic factors arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the country's landlockedness amplified these. Most profound has been the disruption of supply chains and increased ~~transit~~ **trade** costs, which continue to affect imports of various key inputs.

On reviewing both the summary report of the meeting of 2 March and the report that UN-