



## **A. Introduction**

The Third Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting on the Follow-

Agenda. He then mentioned retreat for Ambassadors in New York on the Implications of the New Global Development Agenda for the LLDCs. He highlighted that it is very encouraging to see that the issues of vulnerable countries, including LLDCs, are being incorporated into the global discussions.

Mr. Acharya also informed the meeting of the upcoming meetings; the HLPF in New York in countries in special situations; the Fourteenth session of UNCTAD; the International Conference on Sustainable Transport in Turkmenistan; the 2016 Treaty Event; the meeting of Ministers of Transport of LLDCs to be held in Bolivia; the Senior Officials Meeting on Promoting

from international trade and developing efficient transport and transit systems. The Ambassador

the successful participation of the LLDCs in regional and international trade and for their overall development. He stated that based on those regional studies, OHRLLS have also prepared a synthesized global report on the status of transit cooperation, trade and trade facilitation in LLDCs, which also includes data on the progress in the implementation of the VPoA, based on many of the indicators that have been endorsed for monitoring of the VPoA. The regional reports will be posted on the OHRLLS website and the global report will be published. He also mentioned that the second report is the annual report of the Secretary-General on the ich



that the TFA can make significant contribution by lowering trade costs and lowering the barriers for smaller enterprises and individual traders to access markets. He informed that 83 countries ratified as of 22 June, including 9 LLDCs and 12 transit countries.

He also mentioned that notifications are being received under the different categories, with 87 notifications of category A received, including 50 from LLDCs and 18 from transit countries. It is noteworthy to mention that 6 transit countries have notified they already included all article 11 provisions under category A, while 8 transit countries notified that they are ready to partially implement Article 11. He noted that WTO is starting to receive Category B and C notification, including 1 from LLDC. He stressed that it is important for members to submit their notifications, to ensure that WTO knows there they need capacity building so that access to technical assistance can be provided.

Mr. Torres also informed the meeting that the Aid for Trade 2016-2017 work programme, with main theme of transport connectivity is well under way. The preparations for sixth global review next year are taking place, with the questionnaires for the monitoring exercise being finalized. He urged agencies and organizations to respond to the questionnaire and to help members to fill out their questionnaires. Lastly, he noted that WTO, with UNCTAD and ITC, has made contributions to the different follow-up processes to the 2030 Agenda and AAAA. They prepared a chapter to the FfD report and will issue an issue brief on trade as engine for sustainable development for the HLPF.

The representative of **UNCTAD**

The representative of **IRU, Mr. Jens Hugel**, focused on priority 3 of the VPoA and shared how private sector is helping its implementation. He noted that delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings, including customs procedures and documentation requirements which have been identified as key non-physical barriers to transport. The solution to this problem, he stated, is to implement tried and tested UN transport and trade facilitation instruments such as the TIR and Harmonization Convention. He indicated that some of the LLDCs have already implemented them. He informed that Pakistan has joined this year the TIR convention, and the implementation action plan is progressing well, and furthermore, China is also joining the TIR convention. He stated that the rise of China to the TIR Convention has triggered considerable interest in the region, and Bhutan and Nepal have also voiced their interest in joining.

He informed the meeting that IRU is helping to raise awareness of the TIR and its benefits, including through a study on the economic benefits of TIR in the BBIN countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal). TIR launched another study to evaluate the costs of moving goods

national bonds, regional transit regimes and others. He highlighted results of the first draft which show that national bond systems are 16 times more expensive than the TIR system. Mr. Hugel detailed that the simplification of documentation and digitalization of the TIR procedures is continuing; with first eTIR pilot projects. At the end of 2015, transports between Turkey and Iran under electronic guarantee were successfully carried out. He reiterated that more eTIR transports are underway.

Mr. Hugel informed the meeting that IRU has initiated a Global Partnership for Sustainable Transport (GPST) which complements and supports existing partnerships and initiatives by bringing together a large number of relevant international stakeholders with a view to enhance collaborative action towards the envisaged common sustainable transport development objectives. He explained its aims are more specifically: halving, by 2030, the number of people living in rural areas of developing countries without access to all weather roads and adequate transport services; significantly increasing the share of least developed, landlocked and small island developing states in global trade through better, more efficient and lower cost transport; and enhancing transport safety and clean technology and reducing carbon foot prints in transportation.

In conclusion, he noted that a guideline document on the implementation of the SDGs has been published by the UN for Sustainable Development

The representative of **FAO, Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar**, gave overview of FAO assistance to LLDCs. He mentioned that all 32 LLDCs are FAO Member States and FAO maintains a physical presence in all of them with the exception of Turkmenistan. He noted that FAO offers LLDCs technical support in a wide range of areas: for example, in 2015 FAO invested over US\$190 million in LLDCs, representing 21% of its field programme. On priorities 3 and 4, FAO is providing direct support to LLDCs and other developing countries to enable their effective participation in multilateral, regional and bilateral trade negotiations, with special focus on the linkages between agriculture, food security and rural development. He informed that recently,



FAO provided various training sessions to several CIS countries including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

With regards to priority 5, Mr. Mukhtar noted that

He informed the meeting that SDG 9 on industrialization is in line with the mandate given by Member States to UNIDO a year earlier. UNIDO has embarked on a number of innovations, in particular in terms of its technical assistance. He mentioned that UNIDO is piloting innovative approach in three countries, including one LLDC currently, but which will be extended to include additional LLDCs. The approach is aimed at improving the impact of UNIDO assistance, by mobilizing partners to mobilize public and private finance for the manufacturing sector. He also highlighted the partnerships that UNIDO has with a number of organizations for investment in infrastructure. In terms of monitoring, he informed the meeting that UNIDO has been the responsibility of compiling 45 indicators on SDG 9 targets.

The representative of ECA, **Ms. Heini Suominen**, stated that implementation of the VPoA in Africa happens in the context of regional integration and structural transformation agenda, and that the priorities of the VPoA are in line with continental initiatives such as the Agenda 2063 and the Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) Action plan which is structured around 7 clusters including trade facilitation and infrastructure. She noted that ECA contributes to all of the VPoA priorities through its work including on transport corridors, trade facilitation assistance and research on structural transformation.

targets for the percentage

of its portfolio that will be climate financing.

Ms. Hadji underscored that the WBG is fully engaged in supporting the implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs and provided an update of the status of World Bank efforts towards the implementation of the VPoA. Between July 2014 and May 2016, 28 new VPoA lending projects (IBRD and IDA) have been approved or submitted for approval. In FY2015, their loan value stood at US\$ 1,554 million, and at US\$ 1,155 million in FY2016. The focus of the projects ranges from trade facilitation and road connectivity to electricity access expansion and regional communications infrastructure. Half of the loan portfolio focuses on Africa, both in terms of value and in terms of the number of projects, followed by Europe and Central Asia (37% of loan value), South Asia (8%) and East Asia Pacific

publication together with ECA, ECLAC, ERSCAP, ESCWA, UIC, IRU are directly linked to the role of transport for the SDGs. Other relevant publications include the Cost Benefit Analysis of Transport Infrastructure Projects and Identification of Bottlenecks, Missing links and Quality of Service in Infrastructure Networks .

Lastly, Mr. Pesut stressed that ECE is supporting OHRLLS in capacity building and awareness

capacity building projects in Northern Africa and the Middle East. In conclusion, he informed the meeting that road safety is an important sustainable development goal and a critical issue, and that Secretary-General Special Envoy for Road Safety devotes great deal of his attention and activities to raise awareness about road safety challenges with the governments and stakeholders in developing countries.

The representative of **WCO, Mr. Toshihiko Osawa**, stated that since the last IACG meeting, the WCO has organized two sub-regional workshops on Transit in China and India which discussed various topics such as guarantee system, data exchange, coordinated border management including one-stop border posts (OSBP). He mentioned that participants wanted to learn experiences in other regions, and especially they were very interested in NCTS and OSBP projects in Africa.

In addition to the workshops on transit, Mr. Osawa said that the WCO has delivered more than

other sector

monitoring exercise and mentioned that the effectiveness of the Aid for Trade programmes will be discussed during the 6th Global Review on Aid for Trade to be held in June 2017.

The representative of WTO indicated that WTO will also hold regional events in lead up to the global Aid for Trade review in order to build up the data and information needed to conduct the global review. He also noted that with the decision on elimination of export subsidies reached at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi, SDG target 2.b has already been achieved.

The representative of UNOSSC, **Mr. Adam Rogers**, electronically, as follows. -OHRLLS is very important in order to facilitate the relationship between LLDCs and transit countries in the framework of South-South cooperation. UNOSSC explored working with Kenya as a transit country for many LLDCs in the East African Community, and in this regard, UNOSSC supported Kenya in establishing its Center for SSC. UNOSSC participated in preparing the priorities of a new development agenda for the LLDCs ahead of the Vienna UN Conference in 2014. In 2013 UNOSSC with OHRLLS launched South-South Technology Transfer Facility for LLDCs at the Nairobi South-South Cooperation Expo ([for more information/](#)).

The UNOSSC Maritime and Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (MCSR) is a platform supported by the UN to serve cities and enterprises along the ancient silk roads. It will facilitate the coordination of policies, building of partnerships, formation of initiatives, and access to finance leading to intensified trade, investment and exchange among participating cities (more info [here](#)). LLDCs on the proposed roads (part of the One Belt One Road initiative launched by China) include Laos, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova, FYR Macedonia (list of OBOR countries [here](#))

#### **D. Briefing on upcoming events and activities of importance to LLDCs**



co-organized by the Government of Bolivia and UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with UN DESA and other interested international organizations. She noted that it will be a two day meeting, and will be attended by Ministers of Transport from the LLDCs and the UN system agencies and other international organizations. Bolivia will also be mobilizing regional multilateral development banks and other organizations from the region. She indicated that the meeting will review the progress made by LLDCs in the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and transport systems; identify challenges; share good practices and come up with recommendations. The discussion will touch upon the 2030 Agenda and its implementation with respect to the topic of sustainable transport. She highlighted that the outcome of the meeting will be a Communique of the Transport Ministers of LLDCs, which will provide an important input into the outcome of the first global conference on sustainable transport that is taking place in Turkmenistan later in the year. She said that the final dates and concept note for the meeting will be circulated shortly, together with the invitations.

**Ms. Gladys Mutangadu4Cd.**





activities. These activities could also lead to fostering experience sharing between countries and between regions that individual organizations are working with. He confirmed that UNCTAD will actively participate in the working group and will co-chair this group.

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## **Annex I: List of Participants**

### **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**

Ms. Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Division for Sustainable Development, New York, Email: [zubcevic@un.org](mailto:zubcevic@un.org)

### **UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

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### **UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

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### **International Trade Center (ITC)**

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**UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**

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**World Bank**

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**World Trade Organization (WTO)**

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## **Annex II: Agenda**

Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting  
On the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs

**22 June 2016**  
**Room S4, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

### *Agenda*

09:30 09:45      **Opening session**

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