



4. Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility (IIFF) for Landlocked Developing Countries

The proposed IIFF envisages addressing the unique infrastructure financing needs of LLDCs by leveraging and integrating existing infrastructure finance facilities, enhancing access to innovative sources of finance, building local capacities to attract infrastructure investment and promoting diverse partnerships. Chronic infrastructure deficits have weighed heavily on LLDCs' trade and economic potential and adequate financing to overcome these deficits is imperative to provide impetus to their development. The proposed IIFF will act as a one-stop shop that connects investors with opportunities; facilitates human capacity development to enable LLDCs and their transit neighbors to develop bankable projects; supports long term infrastructure governance; and enables a regional transit development approach.

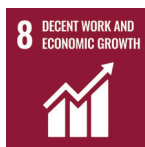
Relevant SDG:



Infrastructure Development: The IIFF will directly address infrastructure deficits in LLDCs, facilitating investments in transportation, energy, and communication networks. Improved infrastructure is crucial for enhancing trade, connectivity, and industrial development.

Innovation: By integrating innovative financing mechanisms and building local capacities, the IIFF will encourage the adoption of new technologies and practices that enhance productivity and sustainability in infrastructure projects.

Other SDGs benefited:



Infrastructure projects lead to job creation during both construction and operation phases. By investing in local capacities, the IIFF will contribute to inclusive economic growth and the creation of decent jobs. Improved infrastructure can also enable LLDCs to diversify their economies beyond traditional sectors, reducing vulnerability to economic shocks.



The IIFF will support long-term infrastructure governance, which is crucial for sustainable urban planning and development in cities of LLDCs, addressing issues such as overcrowding and inadequate services. Investments in sustainable infrastructure can also enhance the resilience of communities to climate change and other environmental challenges, contributing to sustainable urban development.



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The Awaza Programme of Action encompasses a set of deliverables that articulate tangible, multifaceted and accelerated solutions to address the distinct structural vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries. These deliverables will be pivotal for their efforts to achieve the SDGs.

- Ms. Rabab Fatima

Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



Third United Nations
Conference on
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Key Deliverables of the Awaza Programme of Action

and their contribution to the



The Awaza Programme of Action (APoA) encapsulates four key deliverables that will be pivotal for the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in alleviating structural impediments to their long-term development aspirations.

These deliverables specifically envisage eliminating pervasive gaps in four critical areas:

1. Agriculture and food security
2. Trade and transportation
3. Transit
4. Investment for infrastructure

These deliverables would engender myriad positive externalities across a wide range of the Sustainable Development Goals and thus accelerate progress significantly towards the 2030 agenda.





1. Regional Agricultural Research Hubs for Landlocked Developing Countries

High global food prices coupled with climate change related yield disruptions have exacerbated LLDCs' food insecurity while also imposing significant economic costs. Against this backdrop, the development of Regional Agricultural Research Hubs could offer invaluable and tailored support to the LLDCs in enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience by providing forward looking support on agricultural and trade policies and assessing their implications for producers and consumers. These hubs could also help diversify agricultural exports, enhance domestic value addition, and aid LLDCs in complying with WTO provisions.

Relevant SDG:



Regional Agricultural Research Hubs would contribute directly to improving agricultural productivity and food security in landlocked developing countries through enhanced yields, diversified exports, and elevated levels of nutrition.

Given the impacts of climate change on agriculture, Regional Agricultural Research Hubs can focus on developing and disseminating climate-smart agricultural practices, thus enhancing agricultural resilience and food security.

Other SDGs benefited:



Since agriculture accounts for the highest proportion of economic output and employment in most LLDCs, regional agricultural research hubs would contribute significantly to alleviating poverty through higher incomes for farmers as well as elevated resilience to shocks.



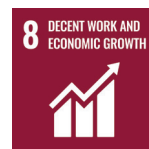
SDG17 emphasizes the importance of global partnerships and cooperation to achieve sustainable development objectives. The establishment of regional hubs would revitalize collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, regional partners, international organizations, and the private sector.



2. Dedicated Work Programme on Landlocked Developing Countries under the Auspices of the World Trade Organization

The proposed Dedicated Work Programme on LLDCs under the Auspices of the WTO aims to address the unique challenges, vulnerabilities, and special needs of LLDCs by enhancing their participation in the multilateral trading system and integration into global supply and value chains. The Work Programme would build on WTO's efforts to contribute to a more universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system that works for inclusive economic growth, structural economic transformation and sustainable development. Considering the tepid progress that LLDCs have experienced in alleviating trade related vulnerabilities, the proposed Dedicated Work Programme could be transformational in addressing structural disadvantages and thus spur progress across a wide range of development goals.

Relevant SDG:



Alleviating LLDCs' trade vulnerabilities could engender accelerated, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Promoting collaboration among LLDCs, transit countries, and international agencies fosters a cooperative approach to trade, which can lead to more stable and dynamic regional economic environments.

Other SDGs benefited:



The proposed Work Programme could offer potent results in reducing inequality within and among countries. This is because addressing specific trade-related challenges of LLDCs can ameliorate the primary source of their economic uncompetitiveness. In doing so, domestic value capture of commodities and goods can be enhanced, thereby levelling the economic playing field.



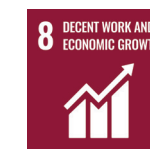
The proposed Work Programme can be instrumental in forging critical and sustained partnerships amongst LLDCs and other countries that could lead to mutually beneficial outcomes in the realms of trade and economic growth.



3. Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Freedom of Transit

Ensuring freedom of transit for LLDCs remains a precondition to fully unshackle their trade and economic potential. Although freedom of transit is a right for LLDCs, as recognized in UNCLOS, WTO GATT and the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the WTO, amongst others, its practical manifestation is often beset by varying impediments. The Secretary-General's proposed High-Level Panel on Freedom of Transit envisages overcoming these obstacles in a proactive manner by: a) Examining the application of existing international laws and agreements to identify constraints and make recommendations to ensure freedom of transit for LLDCs in accordance with applicable rules of international law; b) Advancing collaboration between LLDCs, transit countries and relevant international and regional agencies to ensure smooth and efficient transit; and c) Making recommendations on innovative financing and funding mechanisms and strategies in support of freedom of transport.

Relevant SDG:



The proposed High-Level Panel can by facilitating freedom of transit, aid LLDCs in accessing global markets more effectively, enhance trade opportunities and foster economic growth.

It can also lead to increased employment and improved living standards across various sectors, from logistics and transportation to manufacturing and services.

Other SDGs benefited:



By addressing impediments to transit, the initiative will support the development of robust infrastructure and innovative transport solutions, essential for boosting trade and economic development in LLDCs.



Facilitating transit rights will help level the playing field for LLDCs, reducing economic disparities between them and coastal nations. This can empower LLDCs to better compete in international markets.



Ensuring freedom of transit requires strong institutions and effective governance frameworks to resolve disputes and ensure the rule of law in international transit arrangements.