

## Pact for the Future Action 55: We will strengthen our partnerships to deliver on existing commitments and address new and emerging challenges.

The APoA calls for strengthened multistakeholder partnerships to support adaptation, infrastructure development, and resilience financing, recognizing that addressing climate vulnerability in LLDCs requires coordinated efforts. (see paragraphs 239 and 252 of the APoA on partnerships for adaptation support, capacity-building, and resilience financing)

### Priority Area 5: Means of Implementation

#### Pact for the Future Action 4: We will close the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries.

The APoA emphasizes the urgency of closing financing gaps in LLDCs by calling for scaled-up investment in infrastructure, health, and education, in line with global efforts to mobilize resources for countries furthest behind, as reflected in SDGs 3, 4, 9, and 17. (see paragraphs 267 and 279 of the APoA on substantially increasing resources from all sources and scaling up development finance to meet LLDCs' investment needs)

#### Pact for the Future Action 8: We will achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls...

Strengthening gender equality in LLDCs requires attention to financial and digital inclusion. The APoA addresses this by linking access to remittances, mobile banking, and connectivity with broader efforts to support women's empowerment in development planning, as reflected in SDGs 5, 8, and 10. (see paragraph 306 of the APoA on expanding women's access to financial services, and paragraph 44 on digital inclusion for gender empowerment in LLDCs)

#### Pact for the Future Action 30: We will ensure that science, technology and innovation contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights by all.

Closing digital divides is framed as essential to ensuring that LLDCs benefit equitably from technological advancement. The APoA focuses on building inclusive digital infrastructure and governance systems that uphold equity, and participation. (see paragraph 93 of the APoA on digital governance, inclusive infrastructure, and bridging digital divides in LLDCs)

#### Pact for the Future Action 34: We will invest in the social and economic development of children and young people.

Remittance flows and family-based investments are mentioned in the APoA as tools for supporting youth development, particularly in improving access to education and laying the groundwork for long-term opportunity. (see paragraph 304 on investing remittances in education, healthcare, and human capital development for youth)

#### Pact for the Future Action 47: We will accelerate reform of the international financial architecture to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The APoA underscores the need to improve access to finance for LLDCs and to address high debt vulnerability. (see paragraphs 285-287 and 311-317 of the APoA on inclusive SDR allocation and systemic reforms to the debt and financing architecture for LLDCs).



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For landlocked developing countries, the Pact for the Future must unlock opportunities beyond geography. The Awaza Programme of Action shows the way forward.”

- Ms. Rabab Fatima

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



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# The Awaza Programme of Action

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## Introduction

The **Awaza Programme of Action** for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034 (APoA) represents a renewed global effort to address the persistent structural constraints faced by the 32 LLDCs. “These countries continue to face disproportionately high trade costs, limited connectivity, and heightened exposure to external shocks. The APoA responds with five integrated priority areas which together aim to strengthen productive capacity, improve resilience and enable a more inclusive and sustainable development.

The adoption of the APoA comes at a pivotal moment. With just a few years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the international community has recognized the need to scale up ambition and coordination. The **Pact for the Future**, endorsed at the 2024 Summit of the Future, sets out 56 targeted actions across areas such as development, finance, technology, governance, and peace. It calls for a revitalized multilateralism capable of responding to today's interconnected challenges. Action 1 of the Pact for the Future, which calls for transformative implementation of the 2030 Agenda, reflects the APoA's core vision of structural transformation, inclusive development, and renewed multilateral solidarity.

This mapping illustrates how the APoA's five priority areas correspond with key objectives and actions of the Pact for the Future, identifying entry points for policy coherence, resource alignment, and synergistic implementation. Together, the two frameworks provide a clear path for accelerating progress and delivering results for LLDCs in the decade ahead.

Priority Area 1:

Structural Transformation and Science, Technology and Innovation

Pact for the Future Action 6: We will invest in people to end poverty and strengthen trust and social cohesion.

Skills training, digital inclusion, and education - particularly in STEM fields - are framed in the APoA as strategic investments that reduce poverty and expand opportunity, forming a core pillar of inclusive development and social cohesion. (see paragraphs 41 & 44 in the APoA on the ‘eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions’ and the ‘development of human capital as a critical factor in the utilization of all other productive capacities’)

Pact for the Future Action 28: We will seize the opportunities presented by science, technology and innovation for the benefit of people and planet.

STI is a cornerstone of the APoA’s strategy to build productive capacity and raise competitiveness, particularly through e-commerce, digital services and innovation ecosystems, in line with the Pact’s ambition to leverage technology for human development. (see paragraphs 85-91 in the APoA; including targets on R&D, digital learning and artificial intelligence).

Pact for the Future Action 29: We will scale up the means of implementation to developing countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacities.

The Pact commits to scaling international support for STI in developing countries, which aligns with the APoA call for targeted assistance to close infrastructure gaps, facilitate knowledge transfer, and build regulatory frameworks suited to LLDC contexts. (see also paragraphs 85-91 in the APoA, as well as paragraphs 92-98 covering technology facilitation mechanisms, innovative ecosystems and national digital strategies)

Pact for the Future Action 31: We will ensure that science, technology and innovation improve gender equality and the lives of all women and girls.

The APoA supports women’s inclusion in digital and innovation spaces and promotes gender-sensitive policies in entrepreneurship, digital access, and technology training. The Pact reinforces this agenda with a commitment to embed gender equality within global STI cooperation in LLDCs. (see paragraph 101 in the APoA on ‘mainstreaming a gender perspective in industrial development cooperation and entrepreneurship’)

Pact for the Future Action 33: We will support the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the United Nations in supporting international cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

The APoA explicitly calls for stronger UN engagement in supporting national STI ecosystems through fostering partnerships, mobilizing expertise and aligning global support behind LLDC-specific innovation needs. (see paragraph 94 in the APoA on ‘strengthened international cooperation (...) including with relevant United Nations agencies’)

Pact for the Future Action 34: We will invest in the social and economic development of children and young people so that they can reach their full potential

The APoA positions young people as drivers of transformation by supporting their access to entrepreneurship, education and employment in high-productivity sectors. (see paragraph 32 in the APoA on ‘youth (...) as critical assets for landlocked developing countries’)

Priority Area 2:

Trade, Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration

Pact for the Future Action 4: We will close the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries.

The APoA emphasizes a continued need for expanded financing - particularly in Aid for Trade and targeted support for trade adjacent infrastructure - in order to unlock LLDC trade potential. (see paragraph 115 of the APoA on “investments in non-traditional sectors” and “increased provision of development assistance and Aid for Trade”)

Pact for the Future Action 5: We will ensure that the multilateral trading system continues to be an engine for sustainable development.

Trade facilitation lies at the centre of the APoA’s vision for LLDCs, which face high trade costs and limited access to markets. (see paragraphs 105 and 111 of the APoA, and associated targets on trade diversification, service exports, and WTO accession)

Pact for the Future Action 6: We will invest in people to end poverty and strengthen trust and social cohesion.

Also referenced under Priority Area 1, this commitment finds further expression in the APoA’s emphasis on inclusive market access - particularly for smallholder farmers, informal workers, and peripheral regions - to promote economic growth and greater inclusion. (see paragraph 116 of the APoA on support for MSMEs, vocational training, and inclusive business environments)

Pact for the Future Action 13: We will redouble our efforts to build and sustain peaceful, inclusive and just societies and address the root causes of conflicts.

The APoA promotes regional economic integration and interdependence, which can contribute to stability and cooperation across LLDC regions. (see paragraphs 150 and 152 of the APoA on integration as a tool for sustainable development and broader regional connectivity).

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The APoA calls for stronger partnerships with transit countries, regional blocs, and the private sector to reform cross-border procedures and scale infrastructure investment. (see paragraph 153 of the APoA on joint regional projects, policy harmonization, and alignment of development assistance).

Priority Area 3:

Transit, Transport and Connectivity

Pact for the Future Action 5: We will ensure that the multilateral trading system continues to be an engine for sustainable development.

The APoA foregrounds transit and transport connectivity as the essential preconditions for meaningful participation in global markets, consistent with a trade system that works for all including LLDC countries facing structural barriers to such access. (see paragraphs 140 and 143 of the APoA on aligning corridor infrastructure and digitizing border procedures, and paragraph 146 on capacity-building for implementing global trade conventions)

Pact for the Future Action 27: We will seize the opportunities associated with new and emerging technologies and address the potential risks posed by their misuse.

The APoA highlights ICT connectivity, particularly in border and logistics systems, as a key area where emerging technologies can reduce trade friction, lower costs, and support more inclusive and sustainable development in LLDCs. (see paragraph 143 of the APoA on customs digitalization and paragraphs 196 and 198 on expanding broadband and harmonized digital systems)

Pact for the Future Action 52: We will accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture so that it can meet the urgent challenge of climate change.

Investment in sustainable transport corridors is critical to both climate resilience and trade access. (see paragraph 134 of the APoA on climate-resilient corridors and paragraphs 178 and 186–188 on financing mechanisms to support sustainable infrastructure)

Priority Area 4:

Enhancing Adaptive Capacity, Strengthening Resilience and Reducing Vulnerability

Pact for the Future Action 9: We will strengthen our actions to address climate change.

The APoA identifies climate adaptation as a foundational development challenge for LLDCs, consistent with the Pact’s call for accelerated climate action that addresses the needs of countries in special situations. (see paragraphs 228 and 229 of the APoA on scaling support for LLDC adaptation to safeguard development progress and address worsening climate impacts)

Pact for the Future Action 10: We will accelerate our efforts to restore, protect, conserve and sustainably use the environment.

The APoA emphasizes sustainable land and resource management - including measures to address desertification, biodiversity loss, and water stress - as essential components of environmental sustainability. (see paragraphs 47 and 260 of the APoA on circular economy approaches and biodiversity conservation for environmental sustainability)

Pact for the Future Action 15: We will ensure that people affected by humanitarian emergencies receive the support they need.

LLDCs are increasingly exposed to climate-induced disasters like floods, droughts, or glacier lake outbursts in mountainous regions. These challenges are compounded by development setbacks of LLDCs. (see paragraphs 231 and 232 of the APoA on LLDC vulnerability to disasters and the compounding development impacts of climate-related emergencies)

Pact for the Future Action 52: We will accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture so that it can meet the urgent challenge of climate change.

Access to climate finance remains a major constraint for LLDCs. The APoA calls for scaled-up investment and financing of climate-resilient infrastructure, including in improved health systems and early warning networks. (see paragraphs 227 and 230 of the APoA on access to climate finance and investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and health systems)