

How does the APoA Accelerate the Implementation of the SDGs?

- 1

NO POVERTY

Poverty alleviation is accorded paramount importance in the APoA. Structural transformation will drive economic diversification while creating more jobs (Priority Area 1). Trade facilitation (Priority Area 2) and enhanced transport connectivity (Priority Area 3) will reduce poverty by improved market access and reducing trade costs. Finally, building resilience to climate change will protect vulnerable populations from climate-induced poverty traps (Priority Area 4).
- 2

ZERO HUNGER

The APoA encompasses explicit outcomes that would contribute to alleviating hunger. Priority Area 1 envisages the establishment of Agricultural Research Centers that will enhance agricultural productivity, diversify outputs and augment agricultural resilience. Similarly, improved trade connectivity will facilitate the movement of agricultural products, making food more affordable (Priority Area 2). Climate resilience measures will augment agriculture against extreme weather events, ensuring stable food supplies (Priority Area 4).
- 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The APoA acknowledges the importance of good health as the foundation of all of LLDCs' development aspirations. Priority Area 4 stresses the need for climate-resilient health infrastructure and the implementation of adaptation projects to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on health. Similarly, Priority Area 5 includes avenues to increase financing for development that would be critical for health infrastructure.
- 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

The APoA recognizes the need for access to quality education and skills development. Special emphasis is placed on bridging the digital divide to improve labor productivity (Priority Area 1). Likewise, the Programme targets the harnessing of remittances for higher investment in education and healthcare, leading to human capital development and better employment prospects (Priority Area 5).
- 5

GENDER EQUALITY

The APoA reaffirms the need to support the empowerment of women, recognizing that gender equality cuts across all SDGs. Specific gender targets include alleviating the gender divide in digital technologies (Priority Area 1), trade (Priority Area 2) and connectivity (Priority Area 3). Reference is also made to harness the crucial role of remittances to fight gender inequalities (Priority Area 5).
- 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Despite its importance, progress towards clean water and sanitation has been lagging in LLDCs. The APoA seeks to address this by underscoring the importance of developing climate-resilient infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities (Priority Area 4). Similarly, enhanced ODA levels (Priority Area 5) could contribute to bridging pervasive urban infrastructure deficits that inhibit access to clean water and sanitation.
- 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The APoA notes the significant gap in energy access in LLDCs, particularly between urban and rural areas. It calls for enhanced support for energy infrastructure, clean and renewable energy, and universal access to modern energy services by 2030 (Priority Area 4).
- 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

All Priority Areas of the APoA collectively envision stimulating economic growth and job creation. For example, structural transformation will drive industrialization and diversification, creating more job opportunities (Priority Area 1). Trade facilitation, regional integration and transport connectivity will support economic dynamism and enhanced market access (Priority Areas 2 and 3). Similarly, climate resilience measures will protect productive assets from climate-related disruptions.
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INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority Area 1 of the APoA impresses on the need to fostering innovation and technology adaptation to support industrialization and diversification in LLDCs. Similarly, Priority Areas 2-5 emphasize the importance of improving infrastructure connectivity, developing bankable projects, developing climate resilient infrastructure and channeling foreign investment for infrastructure development.
- 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The APoA recognizes the need to support LLDCs to address structural inequalities. Structural transformation will create more equitable job opportunities (Priority Area 1). Trade facilitation and improved transport connectivity will reduce regional disparities by connecting peripheral areas to core areas (Priority Areas 2 and 3). Similarly, climate resilience measures will alleviate the susceptibility to climate-induced inequalities (Priority Area 4).
- 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The APoA calls for greater investment in resilient infrastructure and urban planning to ensure that cities can sustainably accommodate growing populations and mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters (Priority Area 4). Similarly, economic growth from structural transformation and trade facilitation will support sustainable, orderly, and systematic urban development (Priority Area 1).
- 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The APoA encourages the adoption of circular economy approaches, life-cycle thinking, and zero-waste initiatives. Priority Area 1 envisages promoting sustainable production practices to transition to environmentally viable industries. Similarly, trade facilitation and improved transport connectivity (Priority Areas 2-3) will support efficient supply chains and sustainable transportation. Finally, climate resilience measures (Priority Area 4) will support sustainable resource management.
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CLIMATE ACTION

The APoA includes one priority area (Priority Area 4) specifically dedicated to addressing climate change impacts in LLDCs. Other priority areas also encapsulate objectives that will support this critical goal. These include, for example, a shift towards more sustainable industries, the development of climate resilient infrastructure, reducing disaster risk reduction and the scaling up of climate finance.
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LIFE BELOW WATER

While the APoA primarily addresses land-based issues, the priority areas will indirectly benefit marine ecosystems. For example, sustainable agricultural practices and better land management will reduce runoff and pollution, protecting marine environments. Similarly, Improved trade policies and sustainable transportation will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.
- 15

LIFE ON LAND

The APoA will promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification, and halt biodiversity loss in mutually reinforcing ways. For example, sustainable agricultural practices (Priority Area 1) will protect biodiversity and prevent land degradation. Improved transport connectivity (Priority Area 3) will support efficient resource management. Finally, climate resilience measures (Priority Area 4) will buffer ecosystems against climate-induced damages.
- 16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The APoA highlights the importance of good governance, rule of law, and strong institutions for sustainable development in LLDCs. Priority areas aim to improve economic conditions, strengthening institutions and improving stability. For example, enhanced connectivity will aid efficient governance and service delivery, while climate resilience measures will protect livelihoods and infrastructure, improving stability.
- 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The APoA embodies global cooperation and partnerships, with a dedicated Priority Area on Means of Implementation. Structural transformation and innovation (Priority Area 1) will promote science and technology collaboration, while trade facilitation and improved transport connectivity (Priority Areas 2 and 3) will support regional integration. Climate resilience measures (Priority Area 4) will foster partnerships in climate action and disaster risk reduction.



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The Awaza Programme of Action with its five forward-looking priorities that collectively address all 17 SDGs comes at an opportune time to provide impetus to progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Let us all stand with the LLDCs as they embark on this new Programme that will define their future.

- Ms. Rabab Fatima

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



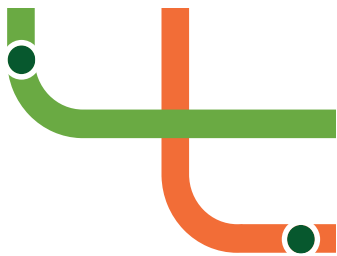
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The Awaza Programme of Action

and the



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Introduction

The Awaza Programme of Action for the Decade 2024-2034 (APoA) encompasses a set of renewed commitments to attenuate the structural vulnerabilities that prevent Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) from achieving sustainable development commensurate to their needs and potential. The Programme, therefore, while taking note of the disproportionate impact of recent cascading global crises on Landlocked Developing Countries, affirms the need to urgently scale up global support for them across five critical areas.

The introduction of the APoA comes at a time when the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals enters its final stretch and there is broad global consensus on the need to revitalize progress towards them. The APoA is structured around five key areas, each of which will interface with the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in mutually symbiotic ways. This presents an invaluable opportunity to harness synergies between these two frameworks and put Landlocked Developing Countries on track for expedited and sustained development at a time of heightened needs.

Five Key Priorities that can Drive Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Priority Area 1: Structural Transformation and Science, Technology and Innovation



Enhancing productive capacities in agriculture and other sectors as well as accelerating adoption of science, technology and innovation can enhance the quality and quantity of employment opportunities, increase incomes and alleviate structural poverty traps in LLDCs.



Improving agricultural productivity through science, technology, and innovation, establishing regional agriculture research hubs, and enhancing education and skills training can support increased agricultural production, better nutrition, and enhanced food security.



Initiatives to promote economic diversification, value addition, industrialization, and entrepreneurship can spur private sector development and generate decent employment opportunities.



Leveraging science, technology, and innovation, and fostering technological support can enhance infrastructure development and industrialization in LLDCs, crucial to ameliorate structural impediments to their sustainable development.



Promoting inclusive and sustainable development through innovative approaches will be imperative to reduce inequalities within LLDCs and ensuring that economic growth benefits all segments of society, especially marginalized groups.



Establishing regional agriculture research hubs and promoting technological support will foster partnerships between governments, private sector, and international organizations and revitalize progress towards the SDGs.

Priority Area 2: Trade, Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration



Increasing LLDCs' participation in global trade, diversifying exports, and enhancing trade capacity building can contribute to poverty reduction by creating economic opportunities, increasing incomes, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.



Improving trade in agricultural products and enhancing food security through better trade facilitation and regional integration efforts can lead to increased agricultural productivity, improved market access for small-scale farmers, and enhanced food security in LLDCs.



Improving trade facilitation, reducing transit costs, and enhancing regional integration can lead to increased economic growth in LLDCs. This growth can create more job opportunities, particularly in sectors related to trade and logistics.



Enhancing transit systems, reducing trade costs, improving infrastructure related to trade routes and customs procedures, and promoting regional economic integration all contribute directly to SDG 9. These initiatives help build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation in LLDCs.



Addressing non-tariff barriers, improving trade facilitation measures, and promoting regional economic integration can reduce inequalities within LLDCs by enabling more inclusive access to global markets.



Enhancing regional economic integration through trade agreements and cooperation can contribute to building strong institutions and promoting peaceful societies.



Partnerships with transit countries and development partners to improve transit systems, streamline border crossings, harmonize trade regulations, and develop infrastructure can foster strengthened international cooperation and strengthen the capacity of LLDCs to participate effectively in global trade.

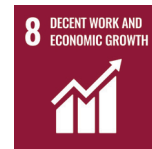
Priority Area 3: Transit, Transport and Connectivity



Reduced transit costs, better infrastructure, and enhanced trade facilitation, can create economic opportunities and increase incomes, thus contributing to poverty reduction in LLDCs.



Efficient transport corridors and improved connectivity can facilitate the movement of agricultural products from rural areas to markets, as well as from one country to another, enhancing food security and nutrition at all levels.



Efficient transit systems and reduced trade costs will support economic growth by lowering transaction costs and improving market access. This would spur job creation across all industries.



Improving transit systems, enhancing transport infrastructure, and streamlining border procedures can provide impetus to inclusive and sustainable industrialization in LLDCs and foster innovation in transport and logistics.



Enhancing connectivity and reducing trade barriers can reduce inequalities within LLDCs and between LLDCs and transit countries by ameliorating the fundamental source of LLDCs' low competitiveness.



Strengthening regional cooperation, harmonizing transit rules, and implementing trade facilitation agreements can contribute to building strong institutions and promoting peaceful societies.



Collaborating with transit countries, international organizations, and development partners to improve infrastructure, enhance connectivity, and provide technical assistance can support SDG 17 by fostering partnerships for sustainable development.

Priority Area 4: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity, Strengthening Resilience and Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change and Disasters



Enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change impacts, particularly in agriculture and water resource management will contribute to food security, improve agricultural productivity, and promote resilient agricultural practices in the face of climate vulnerability in LLDCs.



Promoting sustainable agriculture and water resource management will directly contribute to SDG 6 by ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This includes improving water-use efficiency, reducing water pollution, and safeguarding freshwater ecosystems.



Improving infrastructure resilience and mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development planning can support sustainable urbanization and enhance the resilience of cities and human settlements in LLDCs against climate-related hazards.



Integrating climate change adaptation into national policies, enhancing early warning systems, promoting sustainable land management practices, and increasing access to climate finance will be paramount for LLDCs to mitigate environmental risks and adapt to climate variability and extreme events.



Promoting sustainable land management practices and addressing challenges such as desertification and deforestation can help protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable land resources management.

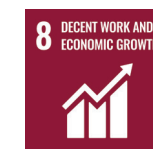


International cooperation, capacity-building, technology transfer, and financial support are crucial for LLDCs to build resilience and mitigate climate change impacts. This will contribute to SDG 17 by fostering partnerships for sustainable development and enhancing global cooperation in addressing climate-related challenges.

Priority Area 5: Means of Implementation



Enhancing domestic resource mobilization, including through efficient tax administration and diversification of revenue sources can support poverty reduction programs and social safety nets in LLDCs.



Mobilizing financing mechanisms, including official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment (FDI), can underpin economic growth in LLDCs as well as the generation of decent employment opportunities.



Access to concessional finance and international cooperation in technology transfer can boost infrastructure development in LLDCs. This could include improving transport networks, energy infrastructure, and digital connectivity, essential for industrialization and innovation.



Ensuring fair and transparent revenue collection, combating illicit financial flows, and enhancing financial inclusion can abate inequalities within LLDCs and ensure that the dividends of development are equitably distributed.



Promoting innovative financial instruments such as green bonds and supporting sustainable infrastructure projects can be extremely efficacious for LLDCs to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Strengthening institutional capacity in debt management, promoting good governance, and combating corruption are essential components of sustainable development in LLDCs. These efforts can enhance transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, fostering stable institutions crucial for development.



Enhancing international cooperation, including through ODA, FDI, and remittances, supports SDG 17 by fostering global partnerships for sustainable development.