



**Third United Nations
Conference on
Landlocked Developing
Countries**

Parliamentary Forum

4 August 2025

Awaza, Turkmenistan

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Parliaments bolster effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in the formulation, execution, and assessment of policies and programmes in Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), transit countries and development partners, and are instrumental in ensuring that commitments are fulfilled and that the priorities of the Programme of Action (PoA) for the LLDCs are implemented.

Parliaments are responsible for drafting laws through legislation and policy frameworks that determine the legal framework within which the objectives of the Awaza Programme of Action (APoA), including trade facilitation, infrastructure development, and regional cooperation, will be implemented at the national level.

Additionally, Parliaments in LLDCs, but also through development cooperation programmes by development partners, have the power to allocate resources and funding to key areas to ensure that LLDCs have the necessary infrastructure, both hard and soft, to facilitate trade, regional integration and socioeconomic development. Monitoring and accountability are vital aspects of APoA. Parliament's oversight function monitors the implementation of policies, assessing progress, and holding the government accountable for achieving targets. Complementarily, Parliaments can facilitate dialogue and collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders.

Furthermore, Parliaments can play a role in raising awareness about the unique challenges faced by LLDCs and advocating for international support and cooperation. This can lead to stronger partnerships and more targeted assistance by supporting the development of international agreements and partnerships that are crucial for LLDCs' access to global markets.

Against this background, UN-OHRLLS is organizing a half-day Forum for Parliamentarians at the third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) in Awaza. The LLDC3 Parliamentary Forum will engage with all relevant stakeholders, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The Parliamentary Forum will focus on the role of Parliaments in the implementation of APoA. After reflecting on the main challenges as well as the opportunities faced by the LLDCs today, four critical issues will be discussed: unresolved changes and lessons learned from the Vienna Programme of Action, the multilateral trading system, good governance and accountability, and partnerships.

This event will cater to the members of parliament attending the LLDC3 as part of their national delegations. The forum will consist of a high-level opening segment followed by interactive panel discussions featuring members of parliament, United Nations officials, academics and representatives from other international organizations, private sector and civil society.

Forum Objectives

The Forum will consist of high-level plenary and interactive dialogues on the priority areas of APoA and the role of parliamentarians in supporting its effective implementation.

The Forum aims to:

- **Provide parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with key policy insights** from the implementation of the VPoA, along with the main developmental challenges and opportunities for parliaments to effectively contribute to implementation of APoA.
- **Promote discussion and exchange of experiences among parliamentarians** to accelerate the achievement of the new PoA through their political work and functions at the local, national and regional levels.

- **Identify and share recommendations on concrete actions** that LLDC parliaments can put in place to comprehensively mainstream the priority areas of the PoA into their core functions (law-making, oversight, budget, representation), stimulate broader political commitment and support for such actions, and ensure effective and coherent implementation more broadly.

Outcome

The event will result in a call for action adopted at the Forum's closing session. The conclusions will be reported to the closing plenary of LLDC3 and reflected in its report.

Where and when

The LLDC3 Parliamentary Forum will take place on **4 August 2025** in Turkmenistan, alongside the third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) on 5-8 August 2025.

Co-organizers



UN-OHRLLS



The Mejlis of Turkmenistan (Parliament)

In partnership with



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Focal Points

Xuqian Qin, OHRLLS – xuqian.qin@un.org

Elena Cutmore, OHRLLS – elena.cutmore@un.org



More information on LLDC3 is available at: **Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries | United Nations**

Charting the Course: Advancing the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs

10:00 am – 13:00 pm

Building 3-06

Monday, 4 August

1. Opening Session/High-Level Plenary (10:00 am - 10:20 am)

Description: The Opening Session will feature high-level delegates from Turkmenistan Parliament, UN-OHRLLS, Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the President of the UN General Assembly, among others.

2. Group Photo (10:20 am – 10:30 am)

3. Thematic Session 1 (10:30 am - 11:15 am) - From Vienna to Awaza: Unresolved Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way forward

Description: This session will provide a forward-looking reflection on the transition from the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) to the Awaza Programme of Action (APoA), drawing on key lessons, national and regional experiences, and emerging opportunities for LLDCs. It will highlight how parliamentarians - through their legislative, representative, oversight, and budgetary functions - can be empowered to champion the APoA's implementation. This is pertinent, given the persistent challenges being faced by LLDCs such as resource constraints, debt burdens, and overlapping crises like climate change. The session will explore how multi-stakeholder partnerships can strengthen parliamentary capacities and engagement and consider how collaboration with transit countries, development partners, the UN system, and civil society can reinforce accountability, policy coherence, and sustainable progress.

Guiding questions:

- What were the major challenges and successes encountered in implementing the VPoA, and what lessons can be carried forward into the APoA decade?
- In what ways does the APoA offer new opportunities for advancing the sustainable development of LLDCs, and how can parliamentarians take a lead in this process?
- How can parliamentary roles in legislation, oversight, and budgeting be enhanced to support APoA implementation in the face of limited resources and overlapping crises?
- What types of partnerships—with the UN, development partners, or civil society—are most effective in strengthening parliamentary engagement and capacity in LLDCs?
- How can parliaments contribute to scaling up investments in infrastructure, public services, and climate-resilient development while ensuring transparency and accountability?

Interactive discussions

4. Thematic Session 2 (11:15 am - 12:00 pm) - Shaping and Strengthening a Multilateral Trading System that Delivers for All in the LLDCs

Description: WTO rules are negotiated at the global level, yet their legitimacy derives from the fact that these rules are ratified in national parliaments. Acknowledging the potential of international trade to drive economic prosperity, inclusive growth and poverty

reduction in the LLDCs, this session reflects on the importance of parliamentary engagement in shaping the future of multilateral trade cooperation. It will delve into mechanisms for parliamentary oversight in trade negotiation processes, ensuring transparency and democratic accountability by monitoring impacts of trade agreements on constituencies. Digital trade has grown exponentially over the last two decades, revolutionizing societies and presenting unprecedented opportunities and challenges for LLDCs in cross-border trade. This new reality necessitates more robust parliamentary engagement with the WTO – enacting appropriate legislation and frameworks to uphold open, secure, easy and fair trade.

Guiding questions:

- Is the multilateral trading system sufficiently supportive of LLDC?
- In the context that concerns over the global economic context and the impact of trade policy shifts have translated into major financial turbulence, how can parliaments, including through legislative actions, get LLDCs more involved in the global supply chain and combat the trend of deviation from freedom of trade?
- How can parliaments support further development of digital trade and the digital economy in LLDCs?
- What measures could parliaments take to promote better utilization of multilateral trading agreements by LLDCs?

Interactive discussions

5. Thematic Session 3 (12:00 pm - 12:45 pm) - Building Peace, Trust and Accountable Governance: Enablers of Sustainable Development in LLDCs

Description: Peace, trust, and good governance are essential and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, particularly for LLDCs. In many LLDCs, however, parliaments face systemic capacity constraints, and marginalized voices—especially those of women, youth, and vulnerable communities—are often underrepresented in decision-making processes. This session, held in the International Year of Peace and Trust, will examine how strengthening parliamentary institutions and enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance can restore public trust, resolve conflicts peacefully, and accelerate progress on the Awaza Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will reflect on governance reforms most critical to LLDCs and explore the role of inclusive parliaments in fostering political dialogue, social cohesion, and equitable development outcomes.

Guiding questions:

- What institutional reforms are most urgently needed to strengthen the governance capacity of LLDC parliaments to implement the APoA?
- How can inclusive and accountable governance foster peace and trust at both national and international levels in LLDCs?
- What role can parliaments play in addressing the underrepresentation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in policymaking and implementation?
- How can parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue be leveraged to strengthen peace, trust, and cooperation among LLDCs and their neighbors?
- What international support mechanisms and partnerships are needed to build institutional resilience and enhance good governance in LLDCs?

Interactive discussions

6. Closing Session: Main Takeaways (12:45 pm - 13:00 pm)

Description: Expanding on the ideas and recommendations extensively deliberated upon in this Forum, this session aims to present key messages and chart a course for the way forward. It will translate a Parliamentary Declaration/Message to enhance the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of APoA into a practical work programme at the national levels and beyond, strengthening the visibility of the parliaments in international forums, including the upcoming Midterm Review.