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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution [75/228](#), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-sixth session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The report reviews the progress in the implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action, including actions by Member States and by the United Nations system and other organizations and identifies the major challenges.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic abruptly halted progress in almost all priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action. Landlocked developing countries have been hit hard by the cross-border processes implemented to contain COVID-19, which resulted in reduced trade and flow of essential goods. Regional cooperation and enhanced connectivity are needed to resume trade and growth in landlocked developing countries that face high transit costs and times. The fiscal implications of the pandemic have led to increased risk of debt distress in landlocked developing countries, limiting their fiscal and policy space for critical investments in recovery, including accessing vaccines. Although signs of a recovery have started to appear globally, landlocked developing countries are largely lagging behind and confront the risk of an extended delay before the recovery ensues. Against this backdrop, this report presents some key recommendations to stimulate action towards the Vienna Programme of Action despite the challenging circumstances.

* [A/76/50](#)



I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a comprehensive analysis on recent progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and of the political declaration of the midterm review covering all six priority areas for action. The report also highlights the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on landlocked developing countries and the progress made on the road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. Furthermore, it highlights activities undertaken by the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

2. The report is based on submissions made by United Nations system organizations and other international and regional organizations and some Member States that responded to the call for inputs. Owing to word limits, the present report contains a summarized version of inputs; the full text of inputs received is available on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The report is also based on statistical data from secondary sources contained in the statistical annex.

II. Overview of socioeconomic development in landlocked developing countries and the impact of the pandemic

3. Prior to the pandemic, landlocked developing countries showed mixed progress towards socioeconomic development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has abruptly halted this progress as mobility restrictions amplified existing geographical and structural vulnerabilities. Growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) plummeted from 4.3 per cent in 2019 to -2.4 per cent in 2020. Foreign direct investment (FDI) contracted by 31 per cent to \$15 billion in 2020, the lowest aggregate level since 2007.

4. Low prices of and demand for commodities added to fiscal and external financing challenges. Merchandise exports declined by 11 per cent to \$168 billion in 2020. The pandemic also impeded progress on structural economic transformation.

5. Migrant remittances fell by 6 per cent to \$35 billion in 2020. In addition to being a key source of external finance, remittances also account for more than 10 per cent of GDP in a quarter of landlocked developing countries, including five in which they comprise more than 20 per cent of GDP. In addition to constricting remittances to landlocked developing countries in the short-term, the pandemic also raised questions on their long-term sustainability. Similarly, tourism came to a virtual standstill, particularly impacting the 13 landlocked developing countries where international tourism receipts contributed to more than 10 per cent of total exports before the pandemic. In many of these countries, tourism is also a key source of employment, especially for women and young people. The slowdown in migrant remittances and near halting of tourism as a result of the pandemic threaten lasting structural impacts in landlocked developing countries.

6. The proportion of the population in landlocked developing countries living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day declined from 27.3 per cent in 2015 to 23.9 per cent in 2019. However, the pandemic reversed this trend, as globally between 119 million and 124 million people are estimated to have been pushed into poverty in 2020. Employment as a percentage of total population decreased from 62.6 per cent in 2019 to 60.2 per cent in 2020. The highest employment impact has been on services and informal manufacturing sectors in which women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately represented. This came as the proportion of people covered by at least one social protection benefit was significantly lower in landlocked developing countries (14.2 per cent) compared to the global average (46.9 per cent).

7. In 2019, all indicators related to food security in landlocked developing countries deteriorated, a trend likely to have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 disrupted supply chains and caused food shortages and price increases. Although the proportion of the population using basic drinking water and sanitation services has increased since 2015, levels remain well below world averages, especially in rural areas, weakening the possibility of handwashing as the first barrier against COVID-19.

8. Prior to the pandemic, landlocked developing countries made progress on health indicators, including under-5 and infant mortality, incidence of HIV, malaria and hepatitis B and access to vaccines. The pandemic has reversed this owing to weak health systems and lower ratios of health professionals and hospital beds per capita. Landlocked developing countries are dependent on imported medical equipment and pharmaceutical products and have suffered from pandemic-related slowdowns in trade and cross-border transit. Scarce medical equipment and supplies have been diverted away from treatment for those with serious illnesses.

9. The pandemic has also had major disruptions on education. As of November 2020, over 50 per cent of schools in landlocked developing countries were either partially or fully closed. Distance-learning options have been implemented using e-learning, mobile apps, television and radio broadcast. However, some landlocked developing countries have had limited ability to make use of these options owing to weak digital infrastructure. Children in rural areas were at a disadvantage.

10. While gains had been made on several gender quality indicators until 2019, COVID-19 has created an additional burden for women and girls. Globally, 70 per cent of workers in health-care and social sectors are women, and they are thus more likely to have been exposed to the virus. Incidence of gender-based violence also increased as many women faced increased domestic violence during lockdowns.

11. Landlocked developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change ramifications, especially drought, desertification, land degradation and the melting of glaciers. Land covered by forests has declined steadily from 17.0 per cent in 2015 to 16.6 per cent in 2020. The pandemic has increased landlocked developing countries' vulnerability to disasters and reduced climate change adaptation capacity. The recovery and rehabilitation phase provides an opportunity for Governments to embed risk reduction and resilience building in policies through a focus on innovation, equity and preparedness. Recovery efforts should have a greater emphasis on economic diversification, productive capacity-building, innovation, skills and knowledge, green economy and resilience.

12. The following sections highlight in more detail progress and the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries.

III. Status of implementation of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action

Priority 1: fundamental transit policy issues

13. COVID-19-related restrictive measures at landlocked developing country and transit country borders, such as border closures, mandatory testing and quarantine, sanitizing of trucks, limiting crew members on trucks and strict social distancing, greatly affected the flow of goods and services in transit. Border restrictions had a significant impact on the timely delivery of and access to essential goods, including food, medical supplies and fuel, and also increased the already high trade and transportation costs in landlocked developing countries. For example, in Africa,

where 90 per cent of all freight on the continent is carried by road transport, major delays occurred at some borders, such as Malaba on the Kenya/Uganda border and Beitbridge on the South African/Zimbabwe border, owing to health requirements introduced by different countries, and different border restrictions. Overall, COVID-19 containment efforts presented significant challenges to freedom of transit for many landlocked developing countries.

14. Over the reporting period, many landlocked developing countries and transit countries have lifted some of the restrictions in favour of partial closures depending on the epidemiological situation. They have also implemented measures such as digitalized or contactless trade facilitation solutions; priority lanes for faster clearance; contactless processing and delivery; and reduced charges or penalties for storing cargo. Some regional economic communities have developed transport, cross-border transit and trade facilitation regulations aligned with international guidelines such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation and World Health Organization health guidelines to facilitate transport and trade.

15. The Automated System for Customs Data programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) issued guidelines for customs administrations to adapt their use of ASYCUDAWorld to the COVID-19 situation. The new legal framework for the full digitalization of the TIR system referred to as the electronic TIR (eTIR) entered into force in May 2021. The eTIR allows paperless and contactless border crossing operations and will be of great importance in ensuring borders can function under such emergency situations.

16. During the reporting period, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, bringing the number of landlocked developing country contracting parties to 21 (66 per cent of landlocked developing countries).

17. Despite opportunities to use existing international legal instruments on international carriage of goods and passengers for cooperation and response under pandemic situations, there is a need to strengthen them with additional provisions for use during emergency situations. There is also a need for landlocked developing countries and transit countries to accede to and make greater use of relevant transit and transport legal instruments to enhance the resilience of cross-border connectivity and supply chains.

Priority 2: infrastructure development and maintenance

18. The COVID-19 pandemic affected transport infrastructure development in many countries. Some countries delayed non-essential or downgraded physical infrastructure projects owing to a loss in toll revenue and diversion of resources. Even though many countries resumed infrastructure projects in the third quarter of 2020, progress was still slow. However, project delays were mostly temporary. According to the World Bank, over 250 infrastructure projects in developing countries were reported as cancelled or delayed, with the number of projects facing disruptions peaking in April and May 2020, and decreasing since then. By the end of 2020, nearly 20 per cent of disrupted projects had resumed activity.

19. Despite COVID-19, some landlocked developing countries have been making efforts to expand and improve their transport infrastructure. For example, Paraguay increased spending on road expansion works by 17 per cent during 2020; Botswana and Zambia commissioned the road and rail Kazungula bridge connecting the two countries in May 2021; Kazakhstan is implementing the Nurly Zhol State Infrastructure Development Programme for 2020–2025, through which it is constructing and reconstructing 10,000 kilometres of roads and repairing another 11,000 kilometres; in December 2020, Afghanistan and Iran jointly inaugurated the Herat-Khaf railway;

and the construction of the Kano (Nigeria) to Maradi (Niger) rail commenced in February 2021.

20. In 2020, historical droughts in the Paraguay river basin affected the Paraguay-Parana waterway, the main transport route for Paraguayan international commerce. At the beginning of 2021, some landlocked developing countries, including Botswana, Malawi, Paraguay and Zimbabwe, experienced damages to roads and bridges owing to extreme rainstorms, underscoring the importance of resilient transport infrastructure.

21. Overall, nearly 200,000 kilometres of paved roads and more than 46,000 kilometres of railways would need to be constructed in landlocked developing countries to reach the global average of road/rail density. It is important that recovery efforts include increased resource mobilization towards transport infrastructure development.

22. Air passenger volume (millions of passenger-kilometres) carried in landlocked developing countries had risen by 2 per cent between 2018 and 2019. However, the onset of COVID-19 brought an unprecedented challenge to the airline industry. According to the International Air Transport Association, in 2020 as a whole, global passenger traffic by air plunged by 66 per cent – the sharpest decline in aviation history, with landlocked developing countries being significantly affected. Looking ahead, continued control of infection rates, increased vaccination and support from Governments will be critical in driving recovery in the aviation industry, while ensuring its compatibility with climate goals.

23. Mobile-cellular subscriptions in landlocked developing countries increased by 4 per cent between 2018 and 2019, while individuals using the internet increased by 12 per cent to 27.4 per cent of the population. In comparison, 87 per cent of individuals in developed economies used the internet in 2019. In 2019, only 21 per cent of women in landlocked developing countries were using the internet compared to 33 per cent of men; and only 16 per cent of the rural population was using the internet compared to 49 per cent in urban areas. The major challenges to improving information and communications technology (ICT) connectivity in landlocked developing countries include higher broadband costs compared to coastal countries; lack of infrastructure; low purchasing power; and limited digital literacy.

24. COVID-19 has highlighted the increased need for digital connectivity and technologies that allow for physical distancing. While some landlocked developing countries have promoted digital connectivity and ICT, including regulatory relaxations and tariff reductions, more needs to be done to close the digital divide. Legislative and policy reforms that nurture a conducive environment for digital business are needed to increase internet speed, affordability and accessibility.

25. The average proportion of the population with access to electricity in landlocked developing countries increased from 56.3 per cent in 2017 to 58.0 per cent in 2019. A big disparity remains between urban and rural inhabitants, with 87 per cent and 45 per cent having access to electricity in those areas respectively. Similarly, access is uneven across income levels. The progress on access to clean cooking fuels and technologies is slow. It was estimated to be 27 per cent in 2019, much lower than the world average of 66 per cent. The pandemic has highlighted the acute importance of access to uninterrupted electricity supply to health facilities, as well as water distribution and information technology infrastructure.

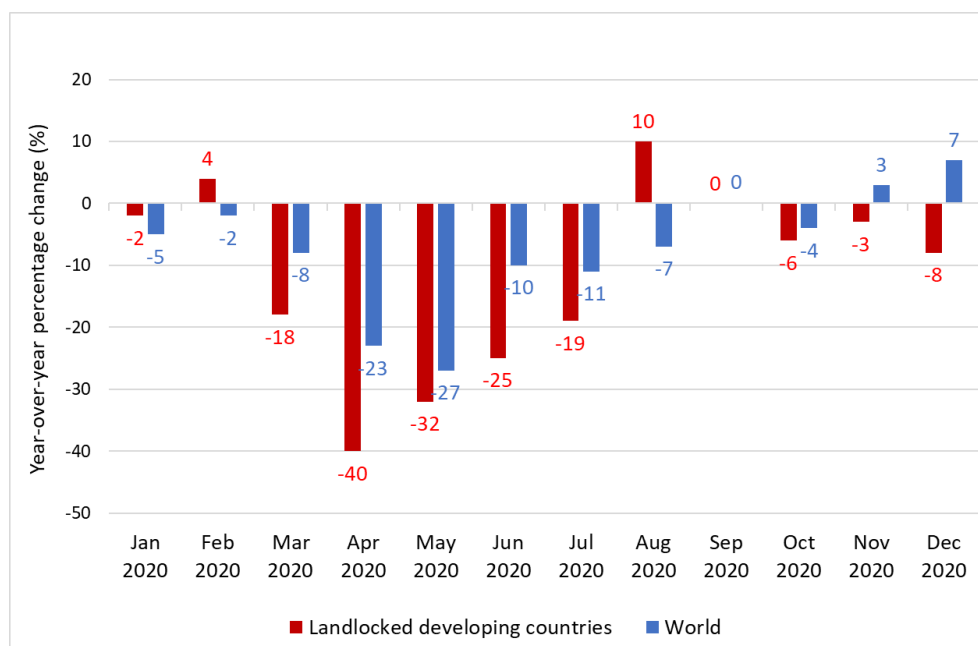
Priority 3: international trade and trade facilitation

26. International trade plays an important role in the economies of landlocked developing countries, as demonstrated by the relatively high value of the trade as a percentage of GDP, which was 73 per cent in 2019. Owing to their high reliance on

trade, especially export of commodities, landlocked developing countries are hit particularly hard by global demand and supply shocks. As a result of COVID-19, global merchandise trade contracted by 6 per cent, with landlocked developing countries being impacted particularly severely.

27. According to WTO, landlocked developing countries' exports declined by 40 per cent between April 2019 and April 2020, almost twice the COVID-19 induced decline for global exports. As world trade recovered towards the end of 2020, landlocked developing country exports continued to decline, by as much as 8 per cent, while global exports grew by 7 per cent. See figure I.

Figure I
Monthly evolution of landlocked developing countries and world export
(Percentage)

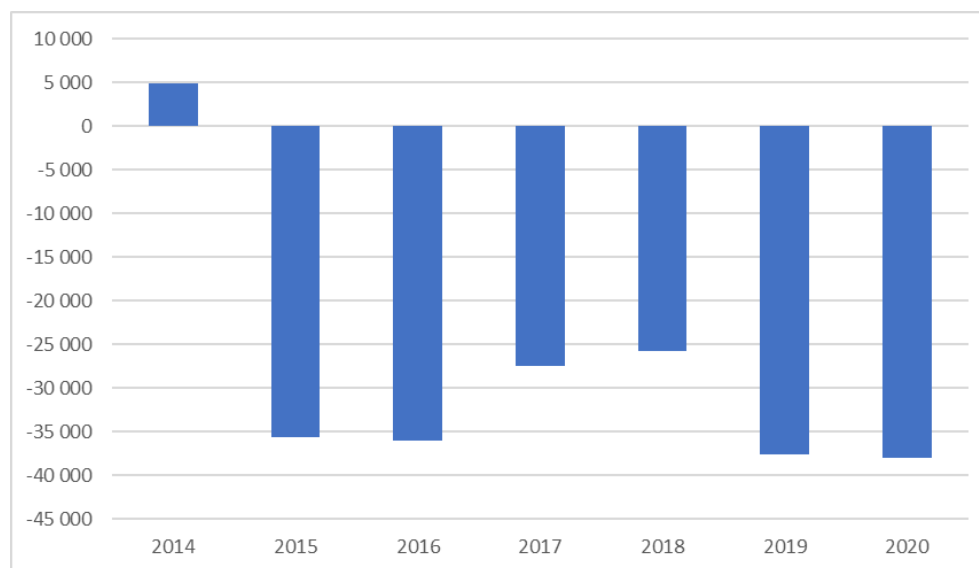


Source: WTO Secretariat, based on data from Trade Data Monitor.

28. According to UNCTAD, landlocked developing countries' trade balance deteriorated from \$-36 billion in 2019 (16 per cent of imports) to \$-37 billion in 2020 (18 per cent of imports). Landlocked developing countries have been running trade deficits for six consecutive years (see figure II). This implies an increase in financing of imports through official development assistance (ODA), FDI or loans, raising concerns of long-term debt sustainability. Persistent trade deficits also inhibit efforts for sustainable development and recovery from the pandemic.

Figure II
Landlocked developing countries' trade balance

(Millions of United States dollars)



Source: UNCTADstat.

29. The pandemic exposed deficiencies in trade facilitation regimes and threatens to erode progress in the implementation of trade facilitation reforms. The closing of borders and introduction of border measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus by transit countries affected the movement of goods and services to landlocked developing countries. This weighed heavily on landlocked developing countries as it became difficult to connect to global markets. This situation further intensified their challenges, including longer export times, higher trade costs and uncertainty about transit times.

30. The pandemic, however, also presented opportunities to expedite implementation of trade facilitation measures that could contribute to curbing the virus and facilitating trade. As part of their response to COVID-19, some landlocked developing countries increased use of digital tools to streamline border processes, such as digitization of trade-related documents. Landlocked developing countries as a group, however, still lag behind in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Those countries implemented an estimated 50.7 per cent of all notifiable commitments of the WTO Agreement by April 2021, up from 34.7 per cent in 2020. A total of 14.7 per cent of those have been designated to be implemented with additional time (category B), and an additional 34.7 per cent have been flagged by landlocked developing countries as needing technical assistance support for implementation (category C). COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of full implementation of the WTO Agreement, especially measures aimed at facilitation of transit, availability of information and use of ICT.

31. The pandemic has also highlighted the importance of digital technologies, particularly e-commerce. The use of e-commerce has significantly increased globally. However, landlocked developing countries have lagged behind owing to insufficient digital infrastructure, depriving them of both domestic and international opportunities.

Priority 4: regional integration and cooperation

32. Landlocked developing countries continued to pursue regional integration and cooperation as a means of overcoming the challenges associated with landlockedness and enhance linkages with the global economy. According to WTO data, as of June 2021, landlocked developing countries participated in an average of 4.2 regional trade agreements. Those in Europe and Asia were party to an average of about five regional trade agreements, compared to an average of three for those in Africa.

33. Of great significance to African landlocked developing countries is the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Trading under the Agreement formally began on 1 January 2021. Thirteen of those countries have so far ratified the Agreement. Ratifying countries have consented to liberalizing up to 97 per cent of tariff lines on intra-African trade and removing non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services. Estimates from the World Bank suggest that, by 2035, the Agreement could boost total exports in Africa by 29 per cent, intracontinental trade by 81 per cent and exports to the rest of the world by 19 per cent, with most gains accrued to the manufacturing sector. Landlocked developing countries such as Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe are projected to increase exports within the African Continental Free Trade Area by 59 per cent, 34 per cent, 38 per cent and 59 per cent respectively by 2035, compared to a scenario without the Agreement in place. The Agreement is also expected to boost intraregional FDI.

34. For the Asia-Pacific region, the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement in November 2020 indicates renewed impetus towards regional integration. The agreement covers trade in goods and services, investment and economic and technical cooperation. It also creates new rules for e-commerce, intellectual property, government procurement, competition and small and medium sized enterprises. Among landlocked developing countries, the agreement is relevant for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as well as its transit neighbours.

35. Relevant United Nations system organizations continue to provide support to enhance regional integration and cooperation. The Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific support the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. The Special Programme is an effective platform for Central Asian countries, along with Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, to collaborate on technical topics including the region's energy, sustainable transport, trade, knowledge-based development, innovation and gender equality. Similarly, the Economic Commission for Africa, UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre and the African Union Commission have been supporting landlocked developing countries in developing African Continental Free Trade Area national implementation strategies.

36. Amid the pandemic, several new regional cooperation initiatives for crisis mitigation and recovery were initiated. The Special Programme adopted the Bishkek Declaration: Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Support Socioeconomic Recovery in The Wake of COVID-19. The Southern African Development Community also adopted guidelines for harmonizing and facilitating the movement of critical goods and services across the region. The African Union, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa, is developing "Continental Guidelines on Trade and Transport Facilitation for the Movement of Persons, Goods and Services Across Africa During the COVID-19 Pandemic". Several countries in Latin America have been working on "foreign trade single window 2.0", which offers new functionalities, updated technology and faster response times for obtaining approval, as well as lower costs, parameterized codes and electronic payment mechanisms for greater cybersecurity.

Priority 5: structural economic transformation

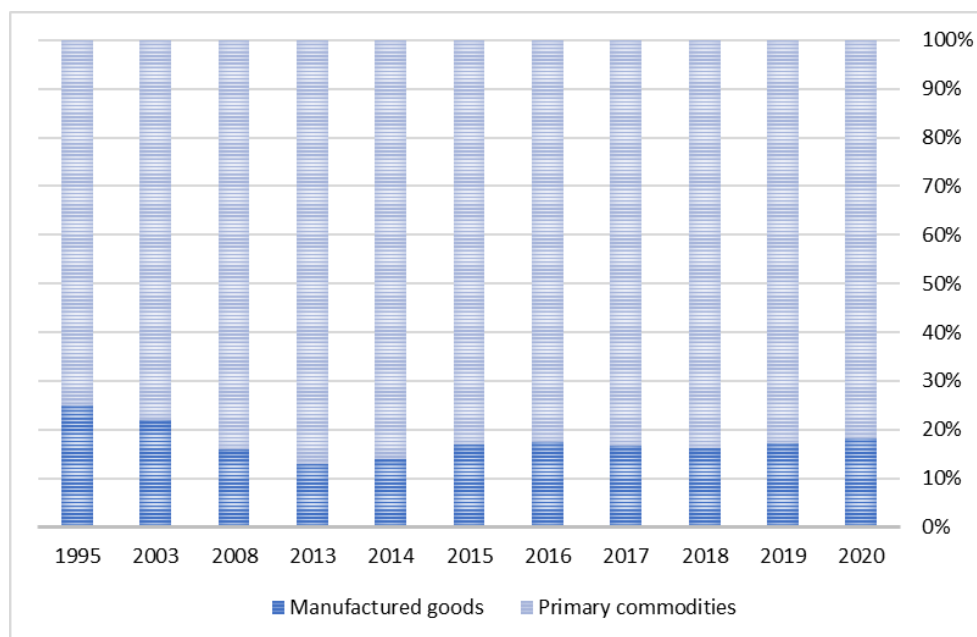
37. Progress towards structural economic transformation has been limited in most landlocked developing countries. The value-added contribution of the manufacturing sector was about 10 per cent of GDP in 2018 and 2019. The share of manufactured goods in total exports has stayed lower than 20 per cent despite efforts for structural change, although there was a slight increase in this to 18.1 per cent in 2020, compared with 17.2 per cent in 2019 (figure III). Although the value-added contribution of services to GDP was higher (46 per cent in 2019), it was well below the world average of 65 per cent. Landlocked developing countries' participation in commercial services trade also remained low and they recorded a services trade deficit of \$11 billion in 2019.

38. The agriculture sector continues to be the major sector providing employment in landlocked developing countries, accounting for 43.8 per cent of employment on average. The value-added contribution of the agriculture sector increased from 14.71 per cent of GDP in 2018 to 17.22 per cent in 2019; however, a decline was observed in 16 countries. Landlocked developing countries continue to experience a decline in agriculture productivity, therefore missing out on the opportunity to industrialize agriculture and expand agro-value chains.

39. Commodities account for more than 60 per cent of exports from 80 per cent of landlocked developing countries. The lack of diversity in these countries' exports is reflected in the concentration index,¹ which has remained around 0.45 per cent since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action. This results in vulnerability to external shocks and limits competitiveness and the ability to produce high value-added products. The pandemic exposed structural vulnerabilities in commodity-producing countries as it led to closures of mines and interruptions in agriculture, directly affecting the supply of these commodities. This contributed to sharp declines and high volatility in commodity prices and exchange rates and thereby to large macroeconomic uncertainties.

¹ The product concentration index shows how exports and imports of individual countries are concentrated on a few products or otherwise distributed in a more homogeneous manner among a series of products. The index takes values between 0 and 1 and the value closer to 1 indicates a country's exports or imports are highly concentrated on a few products.

Figure III
Share of primary commodities and manufactured goods in exports



Source: UNCTADstat.

40. Despite its importance, the private sector in landlocked developing countries remains small and mainly comprises micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Data from the Doing Business database of the World Bank shows that most landlocked developing countries still lag behind in terms of ease of doing business. In 2020, only one landlocked developing country ranked in the top 20 countries in terms of ease of doing business. More than half ranked in the bottom half of the rankings. The 2020 *Doing Business* report highlights that in low-income countries, which include many landlocked developing countries, an entrepreneur spends around 50 per cent of the country's per-capita income to launch a company, compared with just 4.2 per cent in high-income economies. The time taken to start business has also been highlighted as a challenge, as it takes nearly six times longer on average to start a business in the bottom 50 economies compared with the top 20. COVID-19 has negatively affected micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises as they tend to have fewer assets and cash reserves to cushion against lockdown-induced liquidity shortages.

Priority 6: means of implementation

41. ODA to landlocked developing countries increased by 3.8 per cent between 2018 and 2019 to \$29.5 billion, accounting for 18 per cent of ODA to developing countries. ODA flows continue to be concentrated in a few landlocked developing countries. In 2019, five countries received 53 per cent of ODA. ODA remains a critical source of external development finance and an important means for landlocked developing countries' sustainable recovery.

42. In 2019, landlocked developing countries received aid-for-trade disbursements of \$7.7 billion, slightly less than in 2018 (\$8.0 billion). At 17 per cent, the share of aid-for-trade going to landlocked developing countries compared to global disbursements has been stable since 2017. Nearly a third of aid-for-trade flows for landlocked developing countries in 2019 went to energy infrastructure (30.8 per cent),

27.6 per cent went to agriculture, 20.1 per cent went to transport and storage infrastructure and 21.5 per cent went to other categories.

43. According to UNCTAD, FDI flows to landlocked developing countries declined by 31 per cent from \$22.3 billion in 2019 to \$15.4 billion in 2020. This came against the backdrop of a 42 per cent decline in global FDI flows in 2020, compared to 2019 levels. UNCTAD also indicated that greenfield announcements of FDI, an indication of future FDI trends, fell by 52 per cent. One encouraging indicator, however, was the 28 per cent increase in the value of international project finance owing to deals in renewable energy and transport infrastructure. In 2021, significant economic headwinds make an FDI recovery in landlocked developing countries unlikely. The role and preparedness of investment promotion agencies will be critical in facilitating a return to higher levels of investment.

44. As stated above, remittance flows to landlocked developing countries decreased 6.1 per cent between 2019 and 2020. Travel restrictions and border closures imposed to halt COVID-19 have had an unprecedented impact on migrant labour. In addition, the cost of sending remittances globally remains high at 6.8 per cent, well above the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent. The decline in remittances represents the loss of a crucial financing lifeline for many vulnerable households.

45. The fiscal implications of the pandemic are leading to increased risk of debt distress in landlocked developing countries, and limiting space for critical investments in recovery, including accessing vaccines. External debt in landlocked developing countries was 58.1 per cent of GDP in 2019, compared with the average of 25.9 per cent for low- and middle-income countries. Ten landlocked developing countries are classified as being at high risk of debt distress, while eight are at moderate risk. The average total debt servicing was estimated at 28 per cent of the export revenue of landlocked developing countries in 2019, up from 18.4 per cent in 2014. Twenty-two landlocked developing countries are eligible for the suspension of debt service payments under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative until December 2021. The total debt service payments of these countries eligible for suspension amounted to \$9.1 billion in 2020 and \$9.4 billion in 2021. However, the external debt of many landlocked developing countries is predominantly private non-guaranteed debt.

IV. United Nations and international organization's support; United Nations road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; follow-up and review

46. The General Assembly in its resolutions [74/233](#) and [75/228](#) called for the United Nations and international and regional organizations to support landlocked developing countries in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and to help them to respond effectively to the pandemic ([75/228](#)). This section highlights the efforts being undertaken mostly under the road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

47. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States continued to coordinate activities of the United Nations system to ensure the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and coordinated preparation of a joint United Nations call for smooth transit and transport facilitation to and from landlocked developing countries and a joint statement with the World Customs Organization on facilitating trade and transit during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office provided substantive support to landlocked developing countries on COVID-19 and co-organized with partners several meetings, including an expert

group meeting with resident coordinator offices on the impact of COVID-19 on landlocked developing countries and responses; sustainability of transport and trade connectivity in the Caspian Sea region; leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area to promote smooth functioning of corridors; a joint report with the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries on the impact of COVID-19 on landlocked developing countries and responses; and financing sustainable recovery from COVID-19 in landlocked developing countries. The Office, together with partners, undertook virtual training workshops for policymakers from landlocked developing countries and transit countries on strengthening capacity in developing bankable transport infrastructure projects.

48. Resident coordinator offices supported landlocked developing countries in undertaking national assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and responses, and in the development of national development plans, including the five-year development strategy 2021–2025 of Kazakhstan, and the ninth national socioeconomic development plan (2021–2025) of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

49. In 2020, the Economic Commission for Europe promoted the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note and its implementation in the Economic Cooperation Organization region. The Commission is working on operationalizing the Euro-Asian Transport Links and will undertake pilot implementation of a corridor management mechanism. It is also facilitating the development of a unified railway convention for international carriage of goods by rail. The Commission developed a set of sustainable inland transport connectivity indicators and established an international transport infrastructure observatory. It developed the People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals, to evaluate public private partnerships and other infrastructure projects in terms of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

50. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared a report on the impact of COVID-19 on transport and logistics connectivity in South American landlocked developing countries that provides a set of policy recommendations to improve trade facilitation and transport connectivity. The Economic Commission also prepared an analysis of the progress made by South American landlocked developing countries in trade logistics facilitation and digitization and proposed recommendations.

51. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provided technical assistance, advisory services and regional dialogue platforms for Asian landlocked developing countries. Two hundred and fifty participants from Asian landlocked developing countries participated in its capacity-building events on trade and trade facilitation in 2019 and 2020. The Commission assisted Mongolia to accede to the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement in September 2020. It has been supporting Asian landlocked developing countries in evidence-based policymaking and trade negotiations and assisted several in joining the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission, jointly with the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Cooperation Organization, supported Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in connecting to the seaports of Iran.

52. The Economic Commission for Africa, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the Development Coordination Office, as the joint secretariat of the Regional Collaborative Platform, continued its contribution to the implementation of the Platform, which replaced the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in 2020. The Platform provided advocacy and programmatic

planning to 34 African countries in 2020 under the United Nations system-wide socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Platform also advanced strategic interventions for the Sustainable Development Goals through the Africa-United Nations Development Data Gateway and the Africa Data and Statistics Strategy. The Platform and its partners launched the African Medical Supplies Platform – a digital platform that enables African countries to purchase certified medical equipment and vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines.

53. The Platform and its partners offered virtual technical support to countries with debt management and restructuring owing to COVID-19. UNCTAD and the Economic Commission for Africa advocated for further improvements to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative by extending its time duration and country coverage and ensuring the participation of private creditors.

54. UNCTAD supported landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in 2020 with the implementation of trade facilitation and transit obligations of the WTO Agreement. It supported the automation of customs clearance processes through its Automated System for Customs Data programme in 21 landlocked developing countries. It also provided capacity-building support to the WTO accession negotiations of South Sudan. UNCTAD supported 11 landlocked developing countries on e-commerce, including Rwanda, where it assisted in the development of a national e-commerce strategy. UNCTAD continued providing technical assistance and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries to assess their national science, technology and innovation capacities and to identify priority actions. In February 2021, UNCTAD launched the productive capacities index, a composite index that allows policymakers to benchmark their performance on building productive capacities. It also conducted investment policy reviews in Armenia, Burkina Faso and Uzbekistan and continued providing technical support to landlocked developing countries to improve their business climate. UNCTAD provided support to 18 landlocked developing countries through the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme.

55. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction developed COVID-19 issue briefs and webinars to help Governments to adopt a risk-informed approach to recovery and rehabilitation. The Office also provided technical support to several landlocked developing countries to update disaster risk reduction strategies to include biological hazards as part of multi-hazard approaches to prevention and risk reduction. In 2020, the Office along with partners developed a guidance document on how to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Throughout 2020, The Office has supported countries in developing national disaster risk reduction strategies to meet the 2020 deadline set by Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

56. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is working to promote sustainable, low-emission infrastructure and trade by strengthening institutional capacity, including in landlocked developing countries. For example, it is supporting Mongolia in its preparation of a national road map on cleaner fuels and vehicle emission standards. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNEP is strengthening institutional capacity for implementing minimum energy performance standards and the labelling programme for energy efficient lighting and appliances. It is also supporting a transition to a green economy through the development and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies and practices in seven landlocked developing countries. UNEP is providing technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of Bolivia and Paraguay on environmental matters.

57. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is supporting landlocked developing countries in adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. In 2020, a total of 30 landlocked developing countries had undertaken at least one measure to formulate and implement national adaptation plans following the UNFCCC technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process. As of June 2021, only three landlocked developing countries had prepared national adaptation plans and only one had submitted its second nationally determined contribution to the Convention. The Green Climate Fund is also accelerating its support for a climate-resilient pandemic recovery. Twenty-three landlocked developing countries accessed funding support of \$3 million for the formulation of national adaptation plans from the Green Climate Fund readiness support programme.

58. The International Trade Centre is undertaking a number of initiatives in landlocked developing countries to increase the competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, nurture national and regional value chains, address non-tariff barriers for trade facilitation and empower smallholder farmers. In 2020, the Centre supported Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and Mali in establishing a trade facilitation portal. The Centre supported Burkina Faso in diagnosing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. In 2020, it also supported Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger in improving their trading environment and facilitated micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in connecting to regional and international markets. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the Centre is working to improve competitiveness of the textile and clothing sectors. It is also supporting the development of intraregional and international trade in five central Asian countries by strengthening institutional capacity and streamlining borders procedures.

59. The International Telecommunication Union contributed to strengthening ICT infrastructure, connectivity and quality through regional initiatives and various capacity building programmes. The Union provided technical support, for example in the development of the ICT Bill in Burundi; development of the national broadband policy in Lesotho; development of a national cyber-security strategy in Eswatini and the Lao People's Democratic Republic; reform of the ICT regulatory body in the Central African Republic; design of the national telecommunications plan in Paraguay; establishment of a national internet exchange point in Afghanistan, Bhutan and Bolivia; training on cybersecurity and digital skills in Uzbekistan; training in informatics in Kyrgyzstan; and elaboration of the national programme of the radio frequency spectrum management in Moldova.

60. In 2020, the United Nations Development Programme assisted landlocked developing countries in the areas of COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessments, structural transformation, enhancement of digital solutions, improvement of governance, crisis prevention and increased resilience, promotion of clean and affordable energy and gender equality.

61. The United Nations Population Fund strengthened health systems in landlocked developing countries to respond to the pandemic, including through capacity-building and the provision of personal protective equipment to maternity hospitals. It also contributed to landlocked developing countries' national priorities through the provision of population data, helping in harnessing the demographic dividend and promoting gender equality.

62. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization provided support in mainstreaming energy management standards and solutions in industrial processes, improving access to renewable energy and promoting resource efficiency in industries. The Organization is implementing several programmes in landlocked developing countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Moldova and Rwanda. These programmes entail industrial policy development and statistics; small and medium-

sized enterprise development; trade facilitation and enterprise competitiveness; promotion of energy access; and environmental management. In 2020, the Executive Board of the Organization approved the development of new country programmes, in Burundi and Uganda. The Organization operationalized programmes for country partnerships in four additional landlocked developing countries: Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda and Zambia.

63. The United Nations Office for Project Services supported Ethiopia in the health and education sectors in installing renewable energy systems, procuring health materials and equipment and providing satellite connectivity to selected secondary schools. In Mali, the Office successfully rehabilitated Konna's fishing port. In South Sudan, the Office is supporting the Safety Net Project, launched in 2020. In Paraguay, it supported the modernization of family agriculture, strengthening of health systems, delivery of food rations and management of infrastructure projects with structured financing.

64. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations addressed food security and nutrition challenges, mainstreamed climate-smart agriculture in national plans and produced knowledge products to assist in food policy decision-making. It coordinated a large-scale response to the desert locust upsurge in some landlocked developing countries. The Organization is supporting food loss reduction strategy development through improved post-harvest management practices in Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is also supporting climate smart and agricultural value chains in the Niger, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as technical capacity building of the national extension services in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Twelve landlocked developing countries are benefiting from the Organization's "Hand-in-Hand" initiative, aimed at increasing the quantity, quality and accessibility of nutritious foods. The Organization is also providing technical assistance on food security and nutrition statistics to landlocked developing countries.

65. The International Atomic Energy Agency provided technical support, including on increasing agricultural productivity and industrialization of agriculture; enabling access to affordable and clean energy; building infrastructure in nuclear applications; encouraging development of national science, technology and innovation policies; supporting capacity development of landlocked developing countries in research and innovation; addressing issues related to climate change; and removing barriers to achieving gender equality. In addition, the Agency also provided COVID-19 testing and diagnostic equipment to 28 landlocked developing countries.

66. The International Civil Aviation Organization implemented civil aviation technical cooperation projects that contributed to the strengthening of civil aviation institutions, infrastructure and oversight capabilities in 11 landlocked developing countries. The Organization, through its regional and subregional projects, provided capacity-building support in the fields of safety, communications, navigation and surveillance. Through the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force, the Organization is providing guidance to Governments and industry operators on economic recovery from the impacts of COVID 19.

67. The World Intellectual Property Organization is assisting 21 landlocked developing countries in integrating intellectual property in their national development policies to create enabling conditions for economically valuable intellectual property assets. It also continued to support landlocked developing countries in the implementation of a number of technical assistance projects on technology transfer, innovation ecosystem, branding and intellectual property rights.

68. The International Renewable Energy Agency promoted transition towards renewable energy. It continued its support in landlocked developing countries in

assessing conditions needed to accelerate renewable energy deployment through the renewable readiness assessment tool. The Agency continues to support member countries, including landlocked developing countries, in enhancing renewable energy ambitions in nationally determined contributions. The Agency is providing technical support to promote decentralized renewable energy solutions to address multiple Sustainable Development Goal targets and to facilitate electricity access to primary rural health centres.

69. The World Trade Organization Committee on Trade Facilitation and Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility continued to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Organization organized the 2021 Aid-for-Trade stocktaking event to review the trade impacts of the pandemic. One session focused on landlocked developing countries and entailed recommendations for resilient recovery, including enhancing connectivity through digitization of border management measures, enhanced implementation of the Agreement and aid-for-trade support. The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility, with partners, launched a COVID-19 trade facilitation repository.

70. The World Customs Organization prepared the “Compendium of Best Practices in the Area of Transit”, which was endorsed by the Organization’s Policy Commission and Council in December 2020. The Organization is also undertaking work aimed at the harmonization of customs procedures in railway transportation. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Organization has been supporting customs administrations in their efforts to facilitate the cross-border movement of essential supplies, as well as to protect customs staff through resolutions and non-binding guidance material.

71. The Common Fund for Commodities continued to support projects in promoting the structural economic transformation of commodity sectors in landlocked developing countries. In 2020, two projects from landlocked developing countries amounting to \$3.8 million were considered for financing. The Fund is also supporting selected impact investment funds targeting the development of commodities sectors, which have several investments in landlocked developing countries, especially in Africa. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Fund has introduced two important initiatives providing additional support to agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises.

72. The International Road Transport Union undertook capacity-building efforts for landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and supported the process of rapid digitalization of the TIR procedures. The Union also facilitated and expedited the administrative process related to electronic exchange of transport documents such as electronic consignment notes (e-CMR) and e-permits.

73. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe undertook capacity building activities, targeted trainings and technical support to enhance trade facilitation, transit transport development and customs and border regulations. The Organization implemented projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and security and raising awareness of and addressing potential security risks stemming from climate change.

74. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries provided COVID-19 situation analyses and reports for landlocked developing countries using social media and its official website.

75. The International Monetary Fund supported 23 landlocked developing countries that received emergency or programme financing of \$5.5 billion in response to the pandemic. Twelve of the poorest landlocked developing countries received debt relief. The Fund is proposing a new special drawing rights allocation of \$650 billion.

The landlocked developing country group would receive about \$11.4 billion, which would help to address long-term needs for reserve assets and provide a substantial liquidity boost. The Fund also supported debt service relief through the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust to 10 landlocked developing countries in 2020, which provided fiscal space to scale up spending on priority areas.

76. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are supporting implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which was extended until the end of December 2021. A total of 14 of the eligible 22 landlocked developing countries requested participation in the programme. Debt Service Suspension Initiative borrowers commit to use freed-up resources to increase social, health or economic spending in response to the crisis.

77. Multilateral development banks increased support to developing countries after the outbreak of COVID-19. The World Bank Group made available \$160 billion in financing, including \$50 billion from the International Development Association, for the health, economic and social sectors. The African Development Bank is deploying \$10 billion, the Asian Development Bank more than \$20 billion and the Inter-American Development Bank, \$21.6 billion. Nearly 50 per cent of World Bank's COVID-related financing is on concessional or grant terms, with commitments to landlocked developing countries accounting for approximately \$12 billion over 132 projects.

78. The African Development Bank launched a debt action plan and a new strategy for economic governance in Africa – initiatives that will help countries to tackle the debt problem. Under strategies related to regional cooperation and integration, the Asian Development Bank scaled up lending and technical assistance for landlocked developing countries, mainly in the transport and energy sectors, with a special focus on the Central Asian region. The Asian Development Bank also provided support to Bhutan and Nepal on the transport sector, to China and Mongolia to develop an economic cooperation zone along Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridor 4 and to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to support regional health security. The Inter-American Development Bank provided financial resources to Bolivia and Paraguay in the transport, energy and ICT sectors.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

79. The impacts of COVID-19 have compounded vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries. Restrictive border measures have, in particular, affected the movement of essential goods and services, exacerbating high trade costs and increasing delays. The pandemic has led to decreased trade, reduced economic growth, increasing poverty rates and worsening inequalities. Many landlocked developing countries lack the means to strengthen the health response and mitigate the effects of the crisis. Long-term effects on development prospects are likely to be significant, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Strong measures are needed to support the recovery of landlocked developing countries.

80. Urgent efforts are needed to support increased access of landlocked developing countries to vaccines, including through a global vaccination plan and international support towards vaccine procurement and the COVAX initiative. It is also important for the international community to support regional health cooperation to assist landlocked developing countries and their neighbours in building resilient health systems for the future.

81. Robust and comprehensive social protection systems are critical to support vulnerable groups during crises, stabilize aggregate demand and prevent economies

from falling into a deep recession. Most landlocked developing countries lack such systems. In the long term, it is essential to strengthen the social protection systems of landlocked developing countries and ensure that they are gender-responsive.

82. COVID-19 heightened the need to support landlocked developing countries and transit countries in keeping transport networks and borders operational and facilitating the flow of goods and services during crises. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries, and regional organizations, are encouraged to collaborate to support the smooth functioning of transit, transport and trade corridors and ensure freedom of transit in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.

83. The United Nations system and other international organizations should provide greater support to landlocked and transit developing countries to build resilience in transit transport and trade facilitation. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries are encouraged to digitize remaining paper-based procedures, introduce electronic payment, invest in non-intrusive inspections and use data analytics for risk management. It is important that best practices in promoting connectivity and smooth cross-border flow of goods in response to the pandemic are identified and shared with landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

84. Landlocked and transit developing countries are encouraged to continue making efforts to accede to multilateral conventions in transit transport and trade. The United Nations system and international and regional organizations in collaboration with Member States should strengthen existing international and regional legal instruments for use under pandemic situations.

85. It is critical that landlocked developing countries make digital connectivity an integral part of their development strategies, enact regulatory frameworks that favour emerging technologies, make broadband internet affordable and improve partnerships with transit countries to bridge the digital divide and overcome rural-urban and gender disparities. The support of development partners, the United Nations system and international and regional organizations is essential in this regard.

86. Building back better requires placing renewable energy at the core of post-COVID green recovery plans, encouraging the scaling up of investments to promote affordable and sustainable electricity and overcome rural-urban and gender disparities and increasing access of poor and vulnerable households to clean cooking fuels and electricity.

87. As landlocked developing countries embark on recovery plans, robust physical transport infrastructure is needed for enhanced connectivity and to close existing gaps. Landlocked developing countries require international support to develop capacity to prepare a pipeline of sustainable transport infrastructure projects.

88. There is an urgent need for enhanced support towards addressing supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure targeted at value addition and diversification of exports, as well as strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation. Enhanced international cooperation and coordination to meet current challenges are necessary to create open and predictable markets to foster a strong and inclusive recovery by landlocked developing countries. Strengthened support and cooperation are required to address trade finance, as well as to address barriers facing women traders.

89. The ongoing global COVID-19 crisis continues to present a serious threat to the development prospects of landlocked developing countries as they have limited resources to address the pandemic. There is an urgent need for additional and predictable development assistance by the international community in the form of

flexible, concessional and fast-disbursing financial resources to assist landlocked developing countries to build resilient recovery. Continued debt relief efforts are critical for landlocked developing countries' sustainable recovery from the pandemic. It is also important that host countries prevent the repatriation of migrant workers and stabilize economic opportunities for them to allow remittances to return to pre-pandemic levels.

90. In addition to being a source of external finance, FDI can also play a key role in promoting productive capacity and structural change and, therefore, needs to be prioritized by landlocked developing countries. Those countries are encouraged to create an enabling environment for private sector development to increase domestic and foreign investment.

91. Landlocked developing countries are encouraged to minimize regulatory hurdles for entrepreneurs and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and support them through providing access to finance, including through loan programmes, such as working capital, grants, guarantees and additional lines of support. Landlocked developing countries, with the support of development partners and relevant organizations, should promote public private sector dialogues, encourage sharing of best practices that foster entrepreneurship, promote business-to-business dialogue and contacts and stimulate transfer of skills and technology.

92. It is critical for landlocked developing countries to maintain the right policy balance between restoring economic activities and protecting public health. Regional cooperation can help to keep the hardest-hit sectors (such as transport, trade, tourism and health) functioning, while preparing for a full recovery after the pandemic.

93. Climate change continues to threaten landlocked developing countries. Those countries should identify and prepare bankable projects to secure financial resources from the Green Climate Fund and other funds for their climate change adaptation and mitigation needs. Enhanced international support is needed to build and strengthen landlocked developing countries' national adaptation capacities and to prepare bankable projects to access climate funds.

Annex

Statistical tables

Table 1
Gross domestic product, rate of growth, official development assistance and foreign direct investment

	<i>GDP (constant 2015 prices, billions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Real GDP growth (percentage)</i>		<i>Official development assistance (constant 2019 prices, millions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Foreign direct investment inflows (millions of United States dollars)</i>	
	2018	2019	2019	2020	2018	2019	2019	2020
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Afghanistan	19.8	20.1	3.0	-3.8	3 729	4 140	39	13
Armenia	12	12.9	7.6	-6.9	138	417	254	117
Azerbaijan	52.3	53.5	2.2	-3.9	85	119	1 504	507
Bhutan	23.4	24.2	5.3	0.0	106	179	2.71	2.51
Bolivia (Plurinational States of)	37.4	38.2	2.2	-8.0	710	708	-217	-1 048
Botswana	16.2	16.7	3.0	-8.5	86	68	94	80
Burkina Faso	14.2	15	5.7	-1.6	1 160	1 108	163	149
Burundi	3.1	3.1	1.8	-3.3	442	554	1	6
Central African Republic	1.9	2	3.0	-2.0	641	689	26	35
Chad	11.4	11.7	3.0	-3.4	856	642	567	558
Eswatini	4.3	4.4	1.0	-3.3	121	71	130	41
Ethiopia	79.4	86	8.3	-0.5	4 859	4 677	2 549	2 395
Kazakhstan	202.0	211.0	4.5	-2.6	77	53	2 874	3 877
Kyrgyzstan	7.6	7.9	4.5	-7.5	432	443	404	-330.5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17.5	18.3	4.7	0.5	577	622	557	968
Lesotho	2.4	2.5	1.2	-3.0	154	140	118	102
Malawi	7.2	7.6	5.2	0.2	1 265	1 168	822	98
Mali	16.3	17.3	6.6	-2.1	1 524	1 816	721	308
Mongolia	13.5	14.2	6.5	2.3	253	341	2 443	1 719
Nepal	24.2	25.9	7.0	-0.5	325	311	185	126
Niger	11.5	12.1	5.8	-2.0	1 430	1 333	717	367
North Macedonia	10.7	11.1	3.6	-5.8	1 281	1 439	446	274
Paraguay	40.9	41.1	0.0	-1.6	166	139	522	568
Republic of Moldova	8.8	9.1	3.5	-5.6	161	127	503	55
Rwanda	10.2	11.2	9.4	1.1	1 100	1 168	354	135
South Sudan	6.1	6.2	11.3	-7.2	1 563	1 677	-232	18
Tajikistan	10.1	10.9	7.5	3.0	398	361	213	107
Turkmenistan	43.2	44.6	3.0	5.6	20	25	2 129	1 169
Uganda	29	31	4.9	-0.5	1 922	2 030	1 259	823
Uzbekistan	95.6	101	5.6	0.5	1 043	1 152	2 316	1 726
Zambia	23.3	23.6	1.4	-3.5	996	948	548	234
Zimbabwe	22.1	20.3	-8.3	-9.8	783	844	280	194
Total/average	856.7	891.7	4.3	-2.4	28 401	29 506	22 292	15 392

Source: Statistics Division, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Table 2
Merchandise exports: total, share in global trade and sectoral breakdown

	<i>Merchandise exports (current prices, millions of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Merchandise exports share of global trade (percentage)</i>		<i>Primary commodities (percentage of total exports)</i>		<i>Manufactured goods (percentage of total exports)</i>	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
<i>Landlocked developing countries</i>								
Afghanistan	864	783	0.005	0.004	97	96	3	4
Armenia	2 640	2 544	0.014	0.014	77	80	23	20
Azerbaijan	19 636	13 741	0.103	0.078	97	96	3	4
Bhutan	594	433	0.003	0.002	44	40	56	60
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	8 757	7 015	0.046	0.040	94	94	6	6
Botswana	5 241	4 221	0.028	0.024	94	94	6	6
Burkina Faso	3 239	4 491	0.017	0.026	96	97	4	3
Burundi	180	205	0.001	0.001	94	94	6	6
Central African Republic	147	120	0.001	0.001	74	78	26	22
Chad	3 205	2 155	0.017	0.012	99	99	1	1
Eswatini	2 002	1 638	0.011	0.009	32	33	68	67
Ethiopia	2 788	3 476	0.015	0.020	77	75	23	25
Kazakhstan	57 309	46 447	0.301	0.264	87	84	23	26
Kyrgyzstan	1 986	1 965	0.010	0.011	79	83	21	27
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5 806	6 050	0.031	0.034	73	74	27	26
Lesotho	1 063	934	0.006	0.005	37	39	63	61
Malawi	913	788	0.005	0.004	93	89	7	11
Mali	3 693	4 212	0.019	0.024	93	94	7	6
Mongolia	7 620	7 576	0.040	0.043	98	98	2	2
Nepal	968	818	0.005	0.005	32	30	68	70
Niger	1 126	925	0.006	0.005	83	85	17	15
North Macedonia	7 189	6 635	0.038	0.038	15	16	85	84
Paraguay	7 652	8 529	0.040	0.049	85	85	15	15
Republic of Moldova	2 779	2 485	0.015	0.014	44	44	56	56
Rwanda	1 166	1 400	0.006	0.008	92	83	8	17
South Sudan	1 610	915	0.008	0.005	29	31	71	69
Tajikistan	1 174	1 838	0.006	0.010	77	88	23	12
Turkmenistan	9 695	7 120	0.051	0.040	94	94	6	6
Uganda	3 472	3 636	0.018	0.021	84	88	16	12
Uzbekistan	14 024	13 281	0.074	0.076	74	73	26	27
Zambia	7 047	7 805	0.037	0.044	87	90	13	10
Zimbabwe	4 269	4 057	0.022	0.023	86	89	14	11
Total/average	189 853	168 238	0.999	0.957	83	82	17	18

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.