



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 December 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 20 (b)

Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ivaylo Gatev (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. The Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 20 (see [A/78/463](#), para. 2). An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

II. Consideration of draft resolutions [A/C.2/78/L.3](#) and [A/C.2/78/L.54](#)

2. At the 21st meeting, on 9 November 2023, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries" ([A/C.2/78/L.3](#)).

3. At the 23rd meeting, on 21 November 2023, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries" ([A/C.2/78/L.54](#)), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ivaylo Gatev (Bulgaria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.3](#).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.54](#) (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.54](#), draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.3](#) was withdrawn by its sponsors.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbols [A/78/463](#), [A/78/463/Add.1](#) and [A/78/463/Add.2](#).

¹ [A/C.2/78/SR.7](#), [A/C.2/78/SR.21](#) and [A/C.2/78/SR.23](#).



III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration,¹ the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024² and the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,³

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions [71/239](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/232](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/243](#) of 20 December 2018, [74/233](#) of 19 December 2019 and [75/228](#) of 21 December 2020,

Recalling also its resolution [76/217](#) of 17 December 2021, in which the General Assembly decided to convene the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in 2024, its resolution [77/246](#) of 30 December 2022, in which it outlined modalities for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and its resolution [77/329](#) of 25 August 2023 on further modalities of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative

¹ Resolution [69/137](#), annex I.

² Ibid., annex II.

³ Resolution [74/15](#).

Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement⁴ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁶ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in New York on 18 and 19 May 2023,⁷ while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,⁸ and recognizing the importance of sustainable urban development for landlocked developing countries,

Welcoming the Doha Political Declaration,⁹ and reaffirming the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,¹⁰ which represents a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels, cognizant that many landlocked developing countries belong to the least developed country category,

Looking forward to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024 under the overarching theme “Charting the course towards resilient prosperity”,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to pose

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁶ Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

⁷ Resolution [77/289](#), annex.

⁸ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁹ [A/CONF.219/2023/L.1](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [76/258](#), annex.

serious constraints on the overall growth and socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing also the importance of unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access for landlocked developing countries to and from the sea, on the basis of freedom of transit and other related matters, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and the need to bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards and, in this regard, the crucial importance of strong national and international partnerships to bridging the gap and enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with all men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed,

Taking note of the declaration of the twenty-second annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 September 2023 on the theme “From Vienna to Kigali: building momentum towards a new decade of action for prosperity and transformation of landlocked developing countries”,

Noting with great concern that the last half of the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action was marked by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which stalled or reversed socioeconomic development gains that had been achieved by landlocked developing countries, and that the fragile recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been further disturbed by the challenging global macroeconomic conditions, resulting in the exacerbation of their structural and geographical vulnerabilities, and concerned also that the modest recovery is insufficient to reverse the increase in poverty owing to the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizing that the disruption in trade logistics that hampered global value chains and the high cost of global supply chains led to an increase in landlocked developing countries’ trade costs due to their vulnerability and high dependence on transit countries to access international markets,

Recognizing also that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for supporting landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Welcoming the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York on 20 September 2023,

Welcoming also the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International

Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

Taking note of the Joint Inspection Unit review¹¹ of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, in which concern was expressed about the vast gaps between the expectations from the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to deliver and the existing resources of the subprogramme on landlocked developing countries,

Reaffirming the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and affirming further that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action, which builds upon the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,¹² can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;¹³

2. *Recalls* the convening of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and the high-level Political Declaration, in which all the relevant stakeholders are called upon to commit to the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

4. *Recognizes* that slow global economic growth, rising inflation and interest rates, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, supply chain disruptions, rising food prices and the energy crisis and the exacerbating impacts of climate change are all compounding landlocked developing countries’ trade- and transit-related vulnerabilities;

5. *Calls upon* States to ensure the normal functioning of open markets, global supply chain connectivity and cross-border travel for essential purposes, and to enhance the sustainability and resilience of supply chains that foster the sustainable integration of landlocked developing countries and promote inclusive economic growth, including through the increased participation of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade and investment;

6. *Recognizes* that the landlocked developing countries’ share in global merchandise exports has remained substantially unchanged during the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action, and calls for the strengthening of the trade and productive capacities of the landlocked developing

¹¹ [JIU/REP/2021/2](#).

¹² *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I.

¹³ [A/78/283](#).

countries, by enhancing aid for trade as well as market access towards landlocked developing countries;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁴ to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

8. *Welcomes* the political declaration adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development¹⁵ convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023, and urges timely action to ensure its full implementation;

9. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to enhance cross-border collaboration by minimizing disruptions to international transport during health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent future disruptions of a similar nature, while recognizing that regional economic integration is an important driver for sustainable development and integration into the global economy, and invites development partners and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries in implementing the relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;¹⁶

10. *Encourages* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners to actively engage in the dedicated session on transit issues that will be held annually until the next review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is completed, pursuant to the decision taken at the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022, which will contribute to enhancing reforms aimed at facilitating transit for landlocked developing countries;

11. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the relevant actions, consistent with national priorities, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner in the remaining period;

12. *Reiterates* the commitment to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development in landlocked developing countries, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and also reaffirms the importance of the original dimension of sustainable development in addressing regional challenges and scaling up actions among countries;

13. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral,

¹⁴ Resolution 70/1.

¹⁵ Resolution 78/1, annex.

¹⁶ Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

subregional and regional agreements, and invites Member States that have not joined the existing conventions to consider the possibility of accession;

14. *Also stresses* that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

15. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, including roads, railroads, inland waterways, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

16. *Recognizes* that investing in the maintenance and development of hard and soft infrastructure can boost pandemic recovery efforts, notes the importance of sound infrastructure governance over the life cycle of the projects to ensure the long-term cost-effectiveness, economic efficiency, accountability, transparency and integrity of infrastructure investment, including through an open procurement process, stresses that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge that requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and the reinforcement of the role of the private sector;

17. *Also recognizes* that both public and private investment have key roles to play in sustainable infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled financing structures;

18. *Encourages* multilateral financial and development institutions and multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the private sector, to make investments in landlocked developing countries to increase access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, as well as in addressing gaps in renewable energy, information and communications technology, e-commerce, trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure;

19. *Calls for* the full and timely implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation annexed to the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and in this regard urges members and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation;

20. *Also calls for* renewed and strengthened partnerships to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports in order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth;

21. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

22. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building and training, infrastructure, energy, water, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and its significant contributions to short-term pandemic response and long-term COVID-19 recovery, and in this regard highlights the importance of the implementation of the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;¹⁷

23. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

24. *Also recognizes* the constraints faced by landlocked developing countries in gaining access to sustainable investment, and stresses the need to strengthen capacity-building support for these countries, to integrate sustainable investment approaches into capital market development plans;

25. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment, to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

26. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, and urges development partners to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments;

27. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources, including through foreign direct investment, for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹⁸ and the Vienna Programme of Action;

28. *Also recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value

¹⁷ Resolution 73/291, annex.

¹⁸ Resolution 69/313, annex.

addition and are greatly affected by external shocks, and stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development and formalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

29. *Further recognizes* that foreign direct investment can reduce inequalities and help commodity-dependent landlocked developing countries to make the transition to manufacturing activities and other higher value-added activities;

30. *Recognizes* the crucial role of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in contributing to inclusive growth and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through job creation and improving livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable, and in promoting support measures to develop micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked developing countries, including their formalization and participation in international trade;

31. *Stresses* the need to assist landlocked developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt relief and debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, and welcomes the multilateral response to the pandemic, including the Group of 20 and Paris Club Debt Service Suspension Initiative, which ended in December 2021, and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative;

32. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

33. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, receding glaciers, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building;

34. *Takes note* of scientific research undertaken by the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, encourages the International Think Tank to continue to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

35. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

36. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of

work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

37. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the outcome of its midterm review and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

38. *Recalls* its resolution [77/329](#), in which the General Assembly decided that the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be held in Kigali for a duration of four days, from 18 to 21 June 2024, and called upon all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to participate actively in the Conference at the highest level possible, and looks forward to its successful conclusion and an ambitious outcome with concrete targets and specific deliverables;

39. *Decides* that the theme of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries shall be “Driving partnerships for progress”;

40. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Rwanda as host of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Kigali, to be held at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in its resolutions [76/217](#), [77/246](#) and [77/329](#);

41. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Bureau of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the appointment of its Co-Chairs, and recalls its decision to convene the first and second sessions of the preparatory committee in New York, from 5 to 8 February 2024 and from 29 April to 1 May 2024, respectively;

42. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner, to discuss the draft outcome document of the Conference;

43. *Takes note* of the substantive and organizational preparations for the Conference, including the successful holding of the organizational session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in New York, on 13 September 2023, and the three regional review meetings, with one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Africa, jointly organized by the Government of Botswana, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Gaborone on 29 and 30 May 2023, one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Latin America, jointly organized by the Government of Paraguay, the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción on 27 and 28 July 2023, and one meeting for the landlocked developing countries in Europe and Asia, jointly organized by the Office of the High Representative, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe, held in Bangkok on 22 and 23 August 2023, and also takes note of the outcomes of those meetings;

44. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and in the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the landlocked developing countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country level and regional preparations;

46. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be organized and carried out in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

47. *Encourages* the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in the Conference at the highest level possible;

48. *Calls upon* all stakeholders, while reviewing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to identify innovative solutions and initiatives that can be launched as key deliverables at the Conference;

49. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Secretary-General to convene a high-level event of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations during the Conference, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the landlocked developing countries;

50. *Welcomes* the holding by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council of a half-day dedicated thematic event on 7 December 2023 to provide substantive input to the Conference;

51. *Stresses*, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective, well-structured and broad participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory process, including national and regional reviews and thematic preparations, as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference, underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process, and decides:

(a) To invite non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(b) To invite other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, other international bodies and other non-governmental organizations, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(c) To request the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation and with due regard for gender parity, and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the Conference;¹⁹

¹⁹ The list will include proposed and final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

52. *Recalls its request* to the Office of the High Representative to act as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, pursuant to resolution [76/217](#), and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

53. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the landlocked developing countries in the Conference and its preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize voluntary contributions in order to support the cost of the participation of government representatives from the landlocked developing countries;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that necessary and sufficient support is given to transit countries to maximize their contribution to the success of the Conference and its preparatory process;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration and avoiding overlap and duplication with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

56. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as Secretary-General of the Conference, with responsibility for making the arrangements necessary for carrying out the work of the Conference;

57. *Reaffirms* the important role of the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries, and calls for their active participation and support in the preparation for the Conference and at the Conference itself;

58. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and its successor and to extend effective support to the landlocked developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2025;

59. *Requests* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, as well as the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the participation of landlocked developing countries in the Conference;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".