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Global Workshop on Trade and Transport Connectivity for LLDCs

Conference Room 4, United Nations, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

5-8 May 2026

DAY 1 Transport and Trade Analysis	
Time	Session
09:30 – 09:45	**Welcome and Opening Session** ▪ **Ms. Guadalupe Jeanne Palomeque de la Cruz,** *Director General of Multilateral Relations, Bolivia, Chair of Group of LLDCs (TBC)* ▪ **H.E. Amb. Voshilov Enkhbold (PhD),** *Co-Chair of the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia* ▪ **Dr. Garry Conille,** *UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya* ▪ **Mr. Tomas Gonzalez,** *Head of LLDC Sub-Programme, UN-OHRLLS* *Moderator*: *Ms. Nnana Pheto, UN-OHRLLS*
09.45 – 10:50	**Session A1: Regional Initiatives to Strengthen Trade and Transport Connectivity** **Roundtable**: This session will demonstrate the impact of initiatives to strengthen trade and transport connectivity for LLDCs by showcasing practical regional initiatives, infrastructure programmes, trade facilitation projects, and cross-border coordination efforts that reduce trade costs and strengthen the integration of LLDCs with regional and global markets. Panellists: ▪ **Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, Head of LLDC Sub-Programme, OHRLLS** – Advancing the Awaza Programme of Action (APoA) through global commitments on connectivity ▪ **Ms. Jane Karonga, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA** – AfCFTA implementation and regional integration for corridor efficiency ▪ **Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP & Mr. Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP** – Asian Highway Network and Regional Transport Agreements, ▪ **Ms. Allen Asiimwe, Chief of Programmes and Deputy CEO, TradeMark Africa** – Trade facilitation and improving corridor performance ▪ **Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Center (ITC)** – Practical ITC tools for facilitating MSME trade (*video statement*) *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator*: *Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, UN-OHRLLS*
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break & Family Photo

11:10 – 12:30	**Session A2:** **Understanding Trade and Transport Barriers: from the top-down to the bottom-up** **Theory session**: Learn key concepts and explore "top-down" macroeconomic tools for estimating trade and transport costs to benchmark national trade costs and assess the impact of policy changes across time. Facilitator: ***Prof. Dr. Ruth Banomyong, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert*** *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator*: *Mr. Jamie MacLeod, UN-OHRLLS*
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	**Session A3:** **Hands-On with UNCTAD's Trade and Transport Cost Dataset** **Hands-on session**: Work directly with real data to calculate and interpret trade cost estimates, including at the product level, using UNCTAD's latest transport and trade cost database. Facilitator: ***Dr. Onno Hoffmeister, UNCTAD*** *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Ms. Nnana Pheto, UN-OHRLLS*
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 17:00	**Session A4:** **Mapping Transit Corridors with Time-Cost Distance Models** **Hands-on session**: Construct and analyse a Time Cost Distance Model (T/C-DM) to identify bottlenecks across transit corridors, make comparisons between corridors, and prioritize where policy interventions are needed most. Facilitator: ***Prof. Dr. Ruth Banomyong*, UN-*OHRLLS Senior Expert*** *Interactive Discussion* *Ms. Yuki Mitsuka, UN-OHRLLS*

DAY 2 **Turning Data into Action – Evidence-based Policy**	
Time	Session
09:30 – 10:50	**Session A5:** **Measuring Border Efficiency: Using the Border Performance Index (BPI)** **Hands-on session**: Understand and apply the Border Performance Index (BPI) methodology to assess border performance using sample survey results to compute and interpret scores. Learn how to combine both top-down and bottom-up methods in a "triple helix" method.

	Facilitator: ***Prof. Dr. Ruth Banomyong, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert*** *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator*: *Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, ESCAP*
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10 – 12:30	**Session A6:** **Tools in Practice: Findings from the Field** **Peer learning**: This session presents practical case studies demonstrating how data-driven tools, such as the TCDM, BPI, corridor performance analysis and monitoring approaches, and connectivity indicators, are being applied in different regions to identify trade and transport bottlenecks and inform targeted policy improvements. Presenters: ▪ **H.E. Amb. Voshilov Enkhbold (PhD), Co-Chair of the Awaza Programme of Action, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia** – Findings from applying the Time/Cost Distance Model and Border Performance Index in Mongolia ▪ **Dr. Everjoyce Muzvondiwa, OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Findings from applying the Time/Cost Distance Model and Border Performance Index in Zimbabwe ▪ **H.E. Mr. Muktar Djumaliev, OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Using the Time/Cost Distance Model and Border Performance Index for transport policy development in Kyrgyzstan ▪ **Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Transport Division, ESCAP & Mr. Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP** – Time/Cost-Distance Applications for Corridor Diagnostics, tools for data collection (CT-TPM Toolkit and Satellite Positioning Systems) ▪ **Mr. Roel Janssens, Sustainable Transport Division, ECE** - Using Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) for evidence-based cross-border connectivity assessments *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator*: *Mr. Jamie MacLeod, UN-OHRLLS*
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	**Session A7:** **Policy pathways to efficient trade transit** **Roundtable**: This roundtable will solicit recommendations on priorities for realizing the efficient transit of goods and services. Presenters will first share data-driven approaches and best practices, while considering cross-cutting issues of gender, sustainability, digitalization and climate. Participants are then invited to provide insights to directly generate structured meeting recommendations. ▪ **Ms. Nnana Pheto, Economic Affairs Officer, OHRLLS** – APoA deliverable on the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Freedom of Transit

	▪ **Mr. Roel Janssens, Sustainable Transport Division, ECE** – TIR/eTIR as a tool for intermodal transport ▪ **Mr. Raúl Torres, Head of Development Policy, Development Division, WTO** – Advancing trade in LLDCs and mapping of transit corridors ▪ **Mr. Agayo Ogambi, CEO Shippers Council of East Africa** – Key needs, challenges, and solutions from a transit perspective ▪ **WCO** – Guidelines and tools for facilitating transit (TBC) **<u>Interactive Discussion</u>** Participants to share recommendations from their countries on improving efficient transit of goods and services. *Moderator*: *Ms. Jane Karonga, UNECA*
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 16:10	**<u>Conclusion of Workshop Part 1 on Transport and Trade Costs</u>** Key messages and recommendations **Moderator: Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, *Head of LLDC Sub-Programme, OHRLLS***

DAY 3 **Designing Bankable Projects – Principles and Practice**	
Time	Session
09:30 – 10:00	**Introduction and Training Overview: Bankable Transport Projects** ▪ **Mr. Tomas Gonzalez,** *Head of LLDC Sub-Programme, UN-OHRLLS* ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga,** *UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert*
10:00 – 10:50	**<u>Session B1:</u>** **Definitions and principles of bankable transport project design** **Theory session**: This session introduces the core principles of designing bankable transport projects, examining how financiers and development banks assess project viability and what features make proposals investment-ready. Speakers will outline foundational concepts, project-preparation tools, and practical considerations that help LLDCs structure transport projects that attract funding. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Foundations and principles of bankable transport project design for LLDCs ▪ **Mr. Edward Claessen, Head of EIB East Africa** – The Global Gateway Initiative and preparing EU-AU corridor investments ▪ **Ms. Irene Tembo, Chief Planner, Ministry of Transport and Logistics, Zambia** – National experience on bankable transport projects (TBC)

	▪ **Mr. Lucas Bispo de Oliveira Alves, Investment Officer, AIIB** – Preparing investment-ready transport projects (*video presentation*) *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Ms. Nnana Pheto, UN-OHRLLS*
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10 – 12:30	**Session B2:** **Bankable transport infrastructure projects in practice, including transboundary projects: Case studies and experience sharing** **Roundtable**: This roundtable will highlight how bankability concepts are applied in real transport projects, presenting case studies that illustrate needs assessments, diagnostic analysis, alignment with financing requirements, and demonstrating financial viability. Speakers will share practical insights from national and transboundary initiatives, offering key lessons from both successes and challenges for shaping future bankable transport investments. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Case studies, takeways and potential bankable projects ▪ **Mr. Roel Janssens, Sustainable Transport Division, ECE** – Using the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory ▪ **Mr. Denis Lewa Muganga, Director of Private Sector Investment Promotion, Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA)** – Lessons from developing bankable corridor projects ▪ **Mr. Hernan Gabriel Munoz Perez, Director of Physical Integration and International Transport, MFA Paraguay** – National experiences in developing transboundary infrastructure projects (TBC) ▪ ***Discussant*: Mr. Asif Hasanov, Chief Adviser, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, Azerbaijan** – National experiences in developing transboundary infrastructure projects *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Ms. Yuki Mitsuka, UN-OHRLLS*
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	**Session B3:** **Risk Assessment & Mitigation Strategies** **Roundtable**: The session will discuss typical risks for public and private projects: regulatory, financial, social, environmental, operational and frameworks for risk mitigation plans that banks and investors expect. Through institutional and country perspectives, panellists will highlight practical strategies for identifying risks early, strengthening project resilience, and supporting project development. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Understanding typical risks for public and private projects, frameworks for risk mitigation and the role of transaction advisor ▪ **Ms. Nehali Anupriya, Partnerships Officer, UNDRR** – Integrating disaster and climate resilience into risk assessment frameworks

	▪ **Ms. Nuran Atef, Programme Finance initiative, UNEP** – Environmental risk management ▪ **Ms. Tanja Chopra, Environmental and Social Risk Management Advisor, UNOPS** – Developing inclusive transport infrastructures and managing social and environmental risks ▪ **Mr. Aminatou Tamo Maitourare, Director of Logistics and Global Transportation, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Niger** – National experiences in managing project risks and ensuring implementation readiness *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Dr. Onno Hoffmeister, UNCTAD*
15:20 – 15:40	Break
15:40 – 17:00	**Session B4.** **Funding Instruments & Investor Expectations** **Roundtable**: The session will explore funding sources: grants, concessional loans, equity, blended finance, PPPs and will discuss due diligence criteria for commercial lenders, development finance institutions, and impact investors. Through institutional perspectives and practical examples, the discussion will clarify how projects can meet funding expectations, align with investor requirements, and benefit from coordinated regional frameworks to position themselves for successful investment. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Sources of funding for transport projects ▪ **Mr. Edward Claessen, Head of EIB East Africa** – What makes an investment project 'EIB-ready' ▪ **Ms. Nuran Atef, Programme Finance initiative, UNEP** – Leveraging climate finance instruments for sustainable transport investments ▪ **Mr. Rodger Muwanguzi, Manager, Project & Infrastructure Finance, Lending Operations, Trade and Development Bank** – Expectations of international financial institutions and requirements for funding readiness ▪ **JICA** – Expectations of international financial institutions and requirements for funding readiness (TBC) ▪ **World Bank** – Expectations of international financial institutions and requirements for funding readiness (TBC) *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, UN-OHRLLS*

DAY 4 **From Design to Finance – Mobilizing Investment for Projects**	
Time	Session
09:30 – 10:50	**Session B5:** **Establishing a Business-Friendly Environment to Promote Investment towards Transport Infrastructure**

	Peer learning: This session explores how LLDCs and transit countries can create business-friendly environments that attract investment into transport infrastructure, highlighting real-world policy reforms, regulatory improvements, and institutional measures that support investor confidence. Through peer learning and country examples, participants will examine practical approaches for strengthening investment frameworks and generating a more conducive climate for sustainable transport development. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Developing investment-friendly laws, regulations and policies ▪ **Mr. Reginald Max, Senior Advisor - Infrastructure & Public Private, Trade and Development Bank** – Attracting transport infrastructure finance ▪ **Mr. Katiso Gustave Ntoane, Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lesotho** – National experiences in establishing business-friendly policies for promoting transport infrastructure investments ▪ **Ms. Leena Endjala, Acting Deputy Director of the Transportation Policy Division, Ministry of Works and Transport** – National experiences in establishing business-friendly policies for promoting transport infrastructure investments (TBC) ▪ **World Bank** – Fostering investor confidence and supporting infrastructure investment climates (TBC) **Interactive discussion** Participants to share experiences from their countries to attract investment towards transport infrastructure projects. *Moderator: Mr. Roel Janssens, ECE*
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10 – 12:30	**Session B6:** **Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development to Improve Transport Connectivity** **Peer learning**: This session introduces the fundamentals of Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) for transport infrastructure, examining their benefits, limitations, and suitability for improving connectivity in LLDCs. Through institutional and country case studies, speakers will explore practical challenges in structuring PPPs, aligning incentives, managing risks, and attracting private investment for transport projects. ▪ **Mr. Glory K. Jonga, UN-OHRLLS Senior Expert** – Introduction to PPPs, advantages and disadvantages through case studies ▪ **Mr. Alex Mutah, Senior Valuer, LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority** – A model for transboundary PPPs ▪ **Mr. Reginald Max, Senior Advisor - Infrastructure & Public Private, Trade and Development Bank** – Financing approaches and bankability considerations for PPP transport projects ▪ **Mr. Nurmat Musabekov, Head Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyzstan** – Kyrgyzstan experiences with Public Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development

	▪ **Public Private Partnerships Directorate of Kenya** – National experiences in designing and implementing PPPs in the transport sector (TBC) ▪ **UNOPS** – Structuring sustainable and inclusive PPPs for transport infrastructure (*TBC virtual*) *Interactive Discussion* *Ms. Jane Karonga, UNECA*
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	**Session B7:** **Mobilizing finance: LLDC Infrastructure Investment Financing Facility** **Roundtable**: This session will consider recommendations to shape the priorities and options for an Infrastructure Investment Financing Facility for LLDCs, a key deliverable being developed under the Awaza Programme of Action for the LLDCs as well as the Sevilla Commitment on Financing for Development. Participants will share perspectives on the critical bottlenecks for financing infrastructure with landlocked countries, and what is needed to address these financing challenges, particularly in strengthening cross-border coordination, integrating LLDC priorities into fund windows, and improving the pipeline of bankable project preparation. ▪ **Mr. Jamie MacLeod, Economic Affairs Officer, OHRLLS** – APoA deliverable on establishing an Infrastructure Investment Financing Facility for LLDCs (IIFF) ▪ **Mr. Davit Grigoryan, Head of Multilateral Econ. Cooperation, MFA of Armenia** – Key financing needs, challenges, and priority areas for LLDC infrastructure development ▪ **Mr. Nurullo Ruzi**, **Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan** – Key financing needs, challenges, and priority areas for LLDC infrastructure development ▪ **Mr. Leslie Mpofu, Executive Director, Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat** – Transboundary corridor infrastructure development ▪ **AIIB** – Opportunities for cooperating and resource mobilizing for LLDC infrastructure investment (*video presentation*) ▪ **World Bank** – Approaches to structuring and mobilizing finance for LLDC transport infrastructure (TBC) *Interactive Discussion* *Moderator: Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, UN-OHRLLS*
15:20 – 15:40	Break
15:40 – 17:00	**Closing & Certificates** **Mr. Tomas Gonzalez, *Head of LLDC Sub-Programme, OHRLLS***