



18th July 2018

**Midterm Review
of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries
for the Decade 2014-2024**

Expert Group Meeting

**Almaty, Kazakhstan
18-19 September 2018**

Excellency,

We are pleased to invite two representatives of [**name of the country**] to participate and to contribute to the Expert Group Meeting for the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for the Decade 2014-2024.

The expert group meeting is being jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and will take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 18th and 19th September 2018. The meeting will assess progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in Asia-Pacific LLDCs, articulate challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations to address the challenges. The outcome of the meeting will feed into the regional review of progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action “is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty”.

H.E.....

Title

Address....

Country....

Through the adoption of resolution A/RES/72/232, “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”, the General Assembly has decided to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action to assess progress made in its implementation. As highlighted in Resolution A/C.2//72/L.62, this high-level midterm review is to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings.

The deliberations of the expert group meeting will be structured along the six priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action:

- Fundamental transit policy issues (priority 1);
- Infrastructure development and maintenance (priority 2), which includes transport infrastructure (priority 2a) and energy and communications technology infrastructure (priority 2b);
- International trade (priority 3a) and trade facilitation (priority 3b);
- Regional integration and cooperation (priority 4);
- Structural economic transformation (priority 5);
- Means of implementation (priority 6).

The nominated representatives will be asked to make two presentations in the selected sessions of the meeting, drawing on the experiences and practices of their respective countries in implementing the VPoA, and to provide sectoral assessment according to the priorities.

We look forward to your positive response before 6th August 2018, to be sent to Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, UNESCAP (email: paddison@un.org) and Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries’ Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD (email: mussie.delelegn@un.org), with a copy to Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, CSNS/MPFD/UNESCAP (bolesta@un.org), Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert (moritz.meier-ewert@un.org) and Ms. Regina Ledesma (regina.ledesma@un.org), UNCTAD.

Kindly be informed that UNESCAP, UNCTAD and UNECE will be able to provide financial assistance to facilitate your participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mr. Hamza Ali Malik
Director
Macroeconomic Policy and
Financing for Development
Division
UNESCAP

Mr. Patrick Osakwe
Head, Trade and Poverty Branch,
Division for Africa, LDCs and
Special Programmes
UNCTAD

Enclosures

cc: