

**General Debate Statement**  
**on behalf of**  
**the Group of the Landlocked developing countries**  
**During the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development**  
**Segment**

**17-19 May 2022**

**His Excellency Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of ECOSOC;**  
**Her Excellency Miia Rainne, Chargé d’Affaires of Finland to the**  
**United Nations, ECOSOC Vice- President responsible for the**  
**Operational Activities for Development Segment;**  
**His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General**  
**Assembly;**  
**Distinguished colleagues;**  
**Ladies and gentlemen;**

1. I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.
2. The LLDCs welcome the 2022 Secretary General’s report on implementation of the resolution on Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), as well as 2022 Report of the UNSDG Chair on the Development Coordination Office (DCO).
3. The Group of LLDCs pays special attention and appreciate the activities and initiatives of the UN bodies aimed at promoting the interests and challenges of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and other developing countries of the South, through these reports.

**Mr. President,**

4. Operational activities of the United Nations development system take a key place in delivering practical results to all the UN Member States. For our Group of Countries, the repositioned United Nations development system needs to be focused on the priorities and needs of the most vulnerable developing countries, including LLDCs as well as LDCs and SIDS.
5. We note that expenditures on operational activities for development, including humanitarian assistance, in countries in special situations have continued to grow. For instance, since 2015 annual spending on operational activities for development in the 32 LLDCs has increased by 26 per cent to surpass \$8 billion; while in 2021, 92 per cent of LLDCs found that the UN system's efforts aligned with their national needs and priorities.
6. For LLDCs, implementing the VPoA, remains a priority for our Group, in this regard, we consider it important to keep up the support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs as well as the Road map for its accelerated implementation. We envisage the full implementation of the Road map as the practical approach for achieving the goals of the VPoA and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Mr. President,**

7. The UN System partnerships are also necessary to advance implementation of the VPoAs, and SDGs as well as to provide technical support and capacity development to LLDCs, in order to formulate, finance and implement transport infrastructure projects, among others

8. In this regard, our Group encourages the UN system entities to improve their internal capacities to support VPoA's implementation through enhancing inter-agency coordination at the country level by ensuring that country teams in LLDCs reflect the VPoA into their common country analyses, in their cooperation frameworks, and integrate (where possible) VPoA priorities into funding calls for projects developed through joint programmes.
9. We are of the view that while the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic still interrupts many important work done, it also affords us an opportunity to refocus our efforts to recover in even more sustainable way. However, we believe that continued efforts are needed to deepen efficiency and accountability, and ensure sustainable funding of the UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Currently we observe that financing architecture fails to encourage enough joint efforts or collective practical results. In this connection, the LLDCs underscore the increased efforts to close the financing gaps in their Member States.

**Madam Chair,**

10. We therefore, call the UNDS to strengthen its support to the LLDCs through an increase of dedicated financial and human resources to address the priorities of the VPoA, among other actions, and through a stronger engagement of the private sector, donors and development partners.
11. In this vein, the UNDS should continue to strengthen efforts to:
  - address the special challenges faced by the LLDCs;
  - integrate and mainstream fully the VPoA into their operational activities for development; and
  - continue to effectively implement initiatives that are included in the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the VPoA.

12. **To conclude**, the Group of LLDCs would like to underscore that our current efforts will play the key role in the global recovery from the pandemic and the global economic crisis determine, and achieve practical outcomes at the conclusion of this cycle by 2024.

13. 2024 is also key for the LLDC as it marks the inauguration of the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs; that we expect to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of LLDCs, and to strengthen partnerships between LLDCs, transit countries and their development partners. The Group therefore looks forward to the support of the UN entities in preparing for this conference.

**I thank you.**