

3rd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3)

18-21 June 2024 | Kigali, Rwanda | [Website](#)

Introduction

The Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) will be held on 18-21 June 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government.

The main agenda for LLDC3 is to finalize and adopt the new development agenda for the landlocked developing countries for the next decade, the successor to the [Vienna Programme of Action](#) in 2024.

Participants will come from government and non-governmental sectors: LLDCs, countries serving as transit countries, developing countries and donor countries, UN and other international organizations and CSOs and other stakeholders.

In the lead-up to the conference, negotiations on the new Programme of Action will be held at UNHQ in February and in April/May.

See details on the preparatory process below.

LLDCs - Events, players and other information

LLDCs and challenges have been addressed at a number of recent UN meetings:

- [High-level meeting of the LLDC3 at UN Climate Change Conference \(COP28\)](#), 2 Dec 2023
- [Joint thematic event of ECOSOC and General Assembly, ahead of LLDC3](#), 7 Dec 2023

Chair of LLDCs: Botswana

Co-facilitators of LLDC3 Preparatory Committee: [Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria](#), and [Enkhbold Vorshilov, Permanent Representative of Mongolia](#)

“We must enhance international support and Official Development Assistance to countries and communities which need it most. This includes **unlocking and leveraging investment, and reforming the international financial architecture** to allow for better access to resources.”

Remarks by PGA Dennis Francis, Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of LLDCs 21 SEP 2023

Documents

1. [Official UN website on LLDC3](#)
2. [LLDC Factsheet](#)
3. [General Assembly Resolution 77/329: Further modalities of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries](#)
4. [Vienna Programme of Action](#)
5. Outcome Document: Africa Regional Review Meeting ([English](#) | [French](#))
6. Outcome Document: Latin America Regional Review Meeting ([English](#) | [Español](#))
7. Outcome Document: Euro-Asia Regional Review Meeting ([English](#))

Conference Secretary-General and Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries: [Ms. Rabab Fatima](#)

Country reviews: [LLDCs National Reports](#)

CSO accreditation, process and CSO Forum: Relevant [stakeholders](#), including NGOs and those not in consultative status, can be accredited. For information on the Civil Society Forum visit [this link](#).

LLDC3 Preparatory Process | [Link](#)

PRE-CONFERENCE THEMATIC EVENT 2023

- 19 May: [Risk Reduction Hub Event](#): Scaling up resilience and reducing disaster risk in LLDCs
- 26-29 June: World Export Development Forum (WEDF)
- 26-29 June: [LLDCs National Focal Point Meeting](#)
- Other Pre-Conference Events TBC

REGIONAL REVIEW MEETINGS 2023

- 29 - 30 May: [Africa regional review meeting](#)
- 27 - 28 July: [Latin America regional review meeting](#)
- 22 - 23 August: [Asia and Europe regional review meeting](#)

NATIONAL PREPARATIONS 2023

JOINT PGA AND ECOSOC THEMATIC EVENT ON LLDCS MINISTERIAL MEETING ON CONNECTIVITY IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA Second Half of 2023

INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS 2023-2024

- 2 IACG Meetings in 2023
- 2 IACG Meetings in 2024

SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE 2024

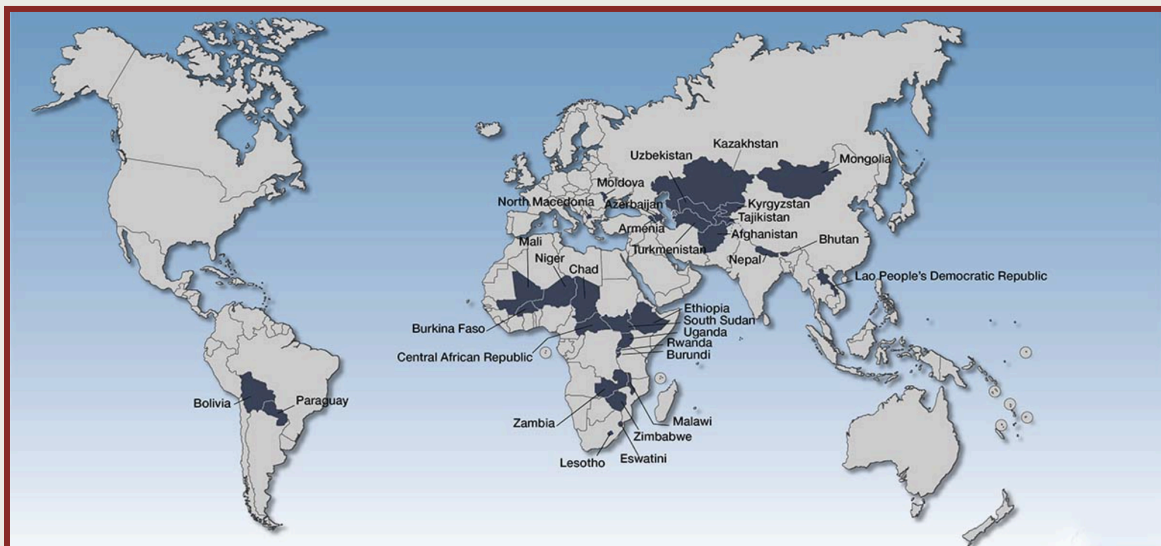
- 5 - 8 February 2024 and 29 April to 1 May 2024, New York

OTHERS 2023-2024

- Relevant Inter-Governmental Processes
- Private Sector Track Events
- South-South Track Events
- Advocacy/ Media Events And Initiatives
- Informal Consultations

LLDC3, KIGALI, RWANDA 2024

Map of 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (17 are Landlocked Least Developed Countries)
16 in Africa, 12 in Asia, 2 in Latin America, and 2 in Central and Eastern Europe



High-level meeting on the LLDC3 at UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) 2 Dec 2023 | [UN Webcast](#) | [Concept Note](#) | [Programme](#)

A high-level meeting at COP 28 featured the challenges faced by LLDCs. [Background](#) from Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS):

“The High-level Meeting of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) on ‘Addressing unique climate vulnerability of LLDCs through partnerships’ seeks to spotlight the urgent and specific challenges faced by landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in the realm of climate change...To address these challenges, the meeting will emphasize the **imperative for immediate and substantial action**. This includes **mobilizing the necessary financial resources to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in LLDCs, fulfilling global climate finance commitments, and operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund with adequate funding.**”

The [concept note](#) for the event highlights:

“The LLDCs have limited institutional, human capacity and financial resources to tackle the challenges arising from the climate crisis. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical tensions have further stressed their fiscal space and reduced their climate change adaptation capacity.”

The LLDCs urgently **require access to adequate, predictable, and concessional resources** from the international community. The long-awaited promise to raise **at least US\$100 billion every year** in climate finance to support developing countries’ transition to low carbon and climate resilient development pathways is urgently needed.

A **50:50 balance between adaptation and mitigation** is critically important for LLDCs and doubling adaptation finance to LLDCs must be delivered by 2025. LLDCs also need increased access to concessional and grants-based financing. The Global Commission on Adaptation estimates that investing \$1.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 could generate \$7.1 trillion in total net benefits.”

The **Loss and Damage Fund** must be operationalized promptly and adequately capitalized to help LLDCs address their persistent vulnerability to climate change. The loss and damage need for developing countries are estimated to be up to US\$580 billion annually by 2030, and \$1.7 trillion annually by 2050. This Fund must be operationalized with adequate funding at COP28.

LLDCs also require **affordable technologies** to strengthen adaptation in agriculture and water sectors; build resilient infrastructure in particular roads; and accelerate energy transition. They also need capacity building support to identify and prepare bankable projects to secure financial resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation needs and national capacities to monitor progress that they are making on climate action.”

COP 28 Programme of the LLDC3 event

OPENING SESSION

- Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana and Chair of the LLDCs
- Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and host country of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs
- Development Partner
- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Dasho Sonam P. Wangdi, Former Secretary of the National Environment Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan and former Chair of the LLDCs in UNFCCC

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS

- Remarks by the Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegation from the LLDCs and the development partner countries.

CLOSING SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE OUTCOME

- Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana and Chair of the LLDCs
- Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary-General and High Representative and Secretary-General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs

STATEMENTS at COP28

António Guterres,
UN S-G

“We must **reform the deeply unfair global financial architecture** so that it **better represents developing countries and better responds to their needs.**”

We need an **international financial system that meets the needs of LLDCs** with an **effective debt-relief mechanism** that supports payment suspensions, longer lending terms, and lower rates. We need international financial institutions to **fully align with the Paris Agreement.**

And we need to increase the capital base and **change the business models of Multilateral Development Banks** so that they leverage far more private finance at reasonable costs to developing countries and in particular LLDCs....

There are **no LLDCs that are big emitters, but LLDCs are on the frontline of the negative devastating impacts of climate change.** So I think you have a moral authority to tell big emitters, namely **the G20 countries that represent 80 percent of the emissions,** it’s time to seriously reduce emissions in order for LLDCs to have a chance not to be so dramatically impacted by the acceleration of the climate chaos consequences.”

Sonam P. Wangdi,
Former
Secretary of
the National
Environment
Commission of
Bhutan
(Keynote
Speaker)

“Developing countries are already paying a high price for loss and damage, and **many are in debt traps and the finance** that will be needed in the coming years to address **loss and damage** is staggering....”

The only space for special treatment in climate change agreements is a term ‘vulnerable countries’ that has differing definitions and does not provide recourse for the problem of the LLDCs. Therefore it is imperative that linkages, collaboration and partnerships in different forms need to be explored between different multilateral agreements and forums to ensure that the **specific problems of the LLDCs are incorporated into the priorities of different multilateral agreements....** LLDCs need urgent support from the international community to address the vulnerability to climate change. These includes **financial support.** LLDCs need financial assistance to invest in climate adaptation and mitigation measures, including also **loss and damage.** This includes **funding for infrastructure development, early warning systems, climate smart agriculture, and renewable energy projects.** **Technology transfer** is another area that LLDCs need to access climate resilient technologies and know-how to adapt to the impacts of climate

change. These technologies could be water management, drought resistant crops, and climate resistant resilient infrastructure.

Capacity building is another area that LLDCs need support to build their institutional capacity to implement climate change policies and strategies, which includes training for government officials, civil society organizations and the private sector. And of course, **debt relief** is a very important area where most LLDCs have high levels of debt, which limit their ability to invest in climate action.”



Rwanda

“Today, it is imperative that we recognize the **power of partnerships** in addressing the unique climate vulnerability of LLDCs.... The global community must come together in solidarity, forming alliances that transcend borders, cultures and economies. We must **leverage existing international frameworks in agreements** to reinforce our collective commitment to addressing the climate vulnerabilities of LLDCs. By aligning our efforts, we can ensure that no country is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development. Moreover, **adequate and accessible funding** along with **technology transfer** and **capacity building** is essential to support LLDCs in the climate resilience efforts.”



Austria

“Firstly, it's a **multilateral action**, given our own experience with landlocked-ness.... We have **increased our climate finances** massively in the past few years and have reached record climate finance contract contributions in 2022, both for Austria especially but also also for the whole European Union. We also provided 500 million euros while the European Union as a whole provided 28 billion euros and mobilized further 11 million euros in private finance in 2022. Secondly, let me highlight the importance of **science and research**.... Austria was one of the first EU member states to develop a strategic approach to climate change.... Let me assure you of Austria's full support to mobilize development partners, transit countries also, as we've heard, from the Secretary-General and other partners, to make the Conference a great success with an ambitious outcome document, hopefully.”



Lesotho

“We need to find sustainable solutions and we need immediate support. We urge developed countries to honour their commitment to **mobilize the US\$100 billion annually** for developed countries. In LLDCs, this money will go towards adaptation and mitigation efforts helping us to protect our people and ecosystems.

We call on development partners to **alleviate our crippling debt burdens**, allowing us to allocate resources to climate change response. Furthermore, we seek support in **climate smart agriculture technology** to boost productivity, while minimizing environmental harm.

Working together to address the unique climate vulnerabilities faced by the LLDCs through collaboration and concrete actions, we can ensure a better future for our nations. It is time for developing countries to fulfill their promises and empower LLDCs to confront climate change head on.”



Zimbabwe

“**Greater cross border infrastructure investments** should be pursued to address insecurities related to energy security, and high costs of transport, which militates against our competitiveness. There is need to unlock valuable and **affordable financial support** and **technical capacities** to strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts. We thus continue to call for **stronger partnerships from the developed North** towards addressing our unique climate, vulnerabilities, and delivering on the climate action.”



“In addressing the impact of the climate change, a strong emphasis should be put on the promoting **circular and green economy** production and consumption practices as well as **promoting digitalization and connectivity** given the scale of the climate change and the fact that it will affect many areas of life.... **Adaptation** also needs to take place on a greater scale. We need to learn to adapt to the new reality.”



“Addressing the unique vulnerabilities of LLDCs requires a collective effort and to strengthen existing partnerships and also forge new ones to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach. [R]ecognizing specific challenges of these nations to address the root cause of the vulnerabilities, including by **supporting adaptation measures** such as enhancing early warning systems, promoting **sustainable infrastructure development**, promoting **sustainable energy access**, strengthening **capacity building** efforts, and also **mobilizing financing**, which should include **debt relief**, is also very important to ensure a just transition and to share also best practices. In this regard, we should work together through **partnerships and collaboration** including the **private sector** so that we can address the climate change impact faced by LLDCs and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable future for all.”

Joint thematic event of ECOSOC and General Assembly, in lead up to LLDC3
7 Dec 2023 | [UN Webcast](#) | [Concept Note](#) | [Statements](#)

ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly held a joint event on “Road to Kigali: New Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries as an Accelerator of the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”:

“Addressing the unique challenges of the LLDCs requires comprehensive policies at national, regional and global levels. Massive investment in all forms of infrastructure, robust transit systems with harmonization and digitalization, modern transport corridors and regional integration can offer new opportunities for LLDCs to access the sea and to participate in the global trading system more actively.

The development of reliable and resilient infrastructure (SDG 9) is not only an important goal of the 2030 Agenda, but it also has significant spillover effects on several other SDGs. It is therefore imperative infrastructure financing be given its due importance.”

Amina Mohammed,
UN Deputy S-G

“The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries hosted by Rwanda is fast approaching, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries is coming to an end.

The Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the Programme is clear that **progress has been slow over the past few years**: That is a consequence of a series of overlapping crises from the devastating impacts of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine leading to **rising costs of living, higher borrowing costs, and funding squeeze**.

We know that **landlocked developing countries face specific challenges and vulnerabilities**. Which – as the Secretary-General has underlined time and again – are too often overlooked by the international community.

Your **distance from the seaports creates barriers to accessing major markets**. Border procedures are frequently cumbersome. You face **infrastructure limitations, connectivity**

challenges, and a digital divide. You are also on the **frontline of climate chaos** – facing desertification, land degradation, prolonged droughts, catastrophic biodiversity loss and rapidly melting glaciers.

Our policy findings show that **being landlocked is an effective obstacle to development**, with landlocked developing countries lagging behind on several development dimensions.

...resilient, inclusive and sustainable development over the next decade... means **giving these countries critical access to finance for infrastructure; rethinking supply chains that work for them; ensuring education, skills and opportunities for young people, especially women, to prosper in their own countries.**"



Cuba
On behalf of G77

"[T]he adverse impact of climate change on LLDCs has reduced the infrastructure connectivity of the Group and has imposed additional challenges....

The Group emphasizes that **building the productive capacities** of landlocked developing countries, promoting value addition and export diversification and moving up global value chains are vital to increasing their trade potential.

It is necessary to promote the **integration of LLDCs in global trade** by, inter alia, enhancing support for **capacity-building** and **technology transfer** to develop digital infrastructure and policies to support e-commerce and the digital economy.

It is necessary to promote structural changes, including through **intensified industrialization** and a greater utilization of science, technology and innovation."



Botswana

"First, as per the provisions of Part 10 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), LLDCs have freedom of transit through the territory of transit States. Article 11 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement also contains similar provisions. For too long, these legal instruments are in place, but very little has been achieved. We, therefore, **need greater collaboration and partnerships for translating these provisions into concrete actions.**

Second, we need a **tailored and dedicated infrastructure finance facility for LLDCs**, leveraging the existing initiatives, to bridge the serious financing gap in infrastructure investment in LLDCs. International trade offers extraordinary opportunities for LLDCs. However, our share in global merchandise exports is only 1.1 percent. We need **concessional and favourable treatment through reduced tariffs and non-tariffs barriers**, and **strengthened support for trade capacity building**, especially in e-commerce and digital trade, through Aid for Trade. We also need a **dedicated work programme for LLDCs in WTO** to increase our voice and participation in the multilateral trading system."



Tunisia
On behalf of the African Group

" [T]he African Group would like to express its commitment to remaining constructively engaged throughout the negotiations on the new Programme of Action, with the ultimate goal of a successful conclusion in favour of the LLDCs.

We consider that **strengthening South-South cooperation with LLDCs** is of vital importance, as a means for diversified trade opportunities, additional foreign direct investment flows, as well as for cooperation in the transfer of technology."



“CANZ is committed to working with LLDCs to overcome these challenges and to seize opportunities for cooperation in sectors including energy, education, transport and digital/information and communication technology (ICT).

We will also continue to prioritize investments and partnerships that have the greatest potential to achieve the **SDGs**, including through closing gender gaps and eliminating barriers to gender equality.

There is a need to focus collective action on mobilizing all sources of development financing to achieve the SDGs. Our countries also contribute to the **Least Developed Countries Fund**, which helps the most vulnerable countries, including LLDCs, adapt to the effects of climate change.”



“Indeed, landlocked developing countries have a greater need for efficient transport corridors to access global markets and reduce transit costs. In this regard, strengthening collaboration with transit countries and international partners is essential.

In the area of diversification and industrialization, there is a need to **encourage economic diversification beyond traditional sectors** and promote industrialization in order to build resilience. Furthermore, investment in technology, innovation and value-added industries is essential.

Regarding production capacities, more emphasis will need to be placed on those that are local, particularly in the **areas of agriculture, manufacturing and services**. Strengthening resilience in the face of external shocks requires self-sufficiency and improving competitiveness.

Regarding the SDGs, the development strategies of LLDCs must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In this regard, it is crucial to **prioritize the SDGs related to poverty reduction, education, health and environmental sustainability**.

In terms of climate resilience, LLDCs facing the impacts of climate change, notably extreme weather phenomena, water shortage and ecosystem degradation, priorities should focus on **adaptation measures and sustainable resource management**.”



“In addition to geographical disadvantages, the newly emerging challenges of the COVID-19 consequences, climate change, food insecurity and geopolitical tensions have further worsened the vulnerability of LLDCs. It is evident from the **decline in investment, trade, FDI, remittances, fiscal space, growing debt burdens, and reduced exports**.

In the regional focus, I would like to underscore that countries of the Central Asian region, having common historic and geopolitical backgrounds, face similar challenges, including the implementation of the SDGs. This was a decisive cause in our proposal to host in Almaty the UN Regional Center for sustainable development goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan. The idea is fully supported by all neighbouring countries.

We need to strengthen the ‘**One UN**’ approach, improve coordination of UN agencies at the regional level, and promote better cooperation and synergy among international organizations and the governments of Central Asia and Afghanistan.”



Lesotho

“Firstly, the new programme of action needs to ensure that **all the six priority areas of the VPoA** are carried forward with modalities that will incorporate new challenges facing LLDCs such as those stipulated earlier.

Secondly... the new programme of action should therefore emphasize **debt restructuring**. In addition, in order to redress these effects of climate change, implementation of the **loss and damage fund** remains a priority. **Climate finance should also not be confused with an increase in ODA funding**. Towards this end, we welcome the decision to **include Climate Change Crisis** as an additional priority area in the successor programme of action for LLDCs.

Thirdly... we must identify practical, innovative, workable, and concrete proposals that can accelerate action in LLDCs. This should include **investments in the productive sectors such as renewable energy, mining, agriculture and food security, and ICTs** in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 development agenda.

Fourthly, the new Programme of Action must emphasize **increased partnerships between the developed and the developing countries**, the main focus of which must be on **trade and investment, skills transfer and capacity building.**”



Paraguay

“In this sense, Paraguay considers that the next action programme should not only insist on the persistent problems faced by our group of countries, such as transit, transportation, trade facilitation, strengthening data generation and statistics, and the financing of public policies, among others, but must also address current global challenges, such as **climate change, natural disasters, and the implementation of new technological resources**, among others.

Resource mobilization will continue to play a key role in the successful implementation of the new Programme of Action for LLDCs. Adequate resources, both **financial and technical**, will be essential to enable our nations to overcome the obstacles inherent to our geographic condition on our path to achieving sustainable development.”



Russia

“Undoubtedly, in the new programme of action we must maintain special attention to the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action, adapting them to new realities, challenges and opportunities. The central theme should remain to help compensate for the geographic distance of LLDCs from global markets through the creation of **modern transit and transport infrastructure**, expanding **logistics capabilities**, simplifying **customs procedures**, increasing **exports, diversifying economies** and **rational use of natural resources**, access to **ICT**, increasing **energy efficiency**, training **qualified personnel**, attracting **foreign direct investment**....

New solutions should be focused on **attracting real financing** and **expanding the capacity of partners to support LLDCs**. In this regard, we see the proposal to **expand the staff of the Office of the High Representative** as particularly relevant, which will allow, among other things, to scale up **technical assistance programmes for LLDCs.**”