



Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Land-Locked Developing Countries

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-18 June 2015



Introduction

- **Africa has half of the 32 LLDCs in the world**
- **Special needs of LLDCs, include**
 - **Lack of direct access to the sea**
 - **Remoteness**
 - **Isolation from world markets**
 - **Inadequate transit transport infrastructure**
 - **Cumbersome border-crossing procedures**
- **LLDCs also have challenges to attract FDI, including**
 - **High transport costs which erode competitiveness**
- **These challenges contribute to:**
 - **Marginalisation of LLDCs in the global economy**
 - **Low rates of economic growth**
 - **LLDCs being among the poorest countries in the world**



Almaty Programme of Action (APoA)

- **APoA was adopted in 2003 to address the special needs of LLDCs**
- **Rio+20 invited member States and their partners to speed up implementation of APoA**
- **Priority areas of APoA:**
 - **Fundamental transit policy issues**
 - **Infrastructure development and maintenance**
 - **International trade and trade facilitation**
 - **International support measures**
 - **Implementation and Review**



From APoA to Vienna Programme of Action

- **APoA comprehensively reviewed at 2nd UN Conference on LLDCs in Vienna in Nov. 2014**
- **Outcome of the conference was the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) being adopted as successor APoA**
- **VPoA seeks to address the same issues as APoA**
- **The priority areas are therefore the same, except that VPoA has two additional priorities:**
 - **Regional integration and cooperation; and**
 - **Structural economic transformation**



Progress

- **Agenda 2063 adopted at AU Summit in 2015**
 - **Aims to achieve Africa's structural transformation**
 - **Designed to achieve aspirations which could facilitate achievement of APoA/VPoA goals**
- **Fundamental transit policy issues addressed by RECs and Corridor Management Organisations**
 - **RECs have trade facilitation programmes that deal with transit charges; Customs Declaration documents; regional customs guarantee schemes; One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), among others**
- **Regional infrastructure framework established**
 - **PIDA provides long-term vision for infrastructure development in Africa**
 - **PIDA has 51 priority projects including several transport corridors linking landlocked countries to the sea**
 - **PICI provides further impetus to implementation of regional transport projects**
 - **Missing links of Trans-African Highway networks are being completed**



Challenges

- **Structural and policy impediments constrain international trade of African countries, particularly LLDCs, including:**
 - **Inadequate infrastructure and inefficient logistics**
 - **Inadequate capacity**
 - **Poor provision of credit and financial services**
 - **Limited level of industrialisation**
- **Compared to coastal countries and in terms of contribution to the economy, landlocked countries have a large share of agriculture; lower industry; and lower share of services**
- **Revenue, excluding grants, as a percentage of GDP increased from 16.5% in 2005 to 18.8% in 2012**
 - **This is relatively low and reflects low capacity of African LLDCs to mobilise domestic resources**



Opportunities

- **Regional integration and cooperation, a priority of VPoA, is also a strategic priority of Africa**
- **Adoption of VPoA has spurred renewed commitment and enhanced momentum for the development agenda of LLDCs**
 - **African LLDCs should take advantage of the renewed international goodwill**
 - **African LLDCs should develop viable projects within the context of the priorities of VPoA which are consistent with Africa's priorities**
 - **VPoA provides an opportunity to implement projects in Africa's priority programmes such as PIDA**



Key Questions

- **How can Agenda 2063 be harnessed to galvanise international, regional and national support to tackle the challenges facing the continent's LLDCs?**
- **What role can regional integration play to fast-track the integration of African LLDCs to regional and global markets?**
- **How can industrialisation contribute to Africa's structural transformation, particularly for LLDCs?**
- **Why has infrastructure development remained an illusive prospect in Africa? What will it take to modernise Africa's infrastructure and upscale its energy production and distribution network?**
- **Can Africa, particularly its LLDCs, depend on domestic resource mobilisation to finance its development?**



Thank You