Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Land-Locked Developing Countries

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United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

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