



## **Almaty Programme of Action**

### **Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries**

**Expert meeting: progress made with regard to the implementation of the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action**

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## Factors:

- negative impact of geographic factors (distance to ports)
- challenges related to transit through other countries
- many border crossings
- excessive distances to major markets
- cumbersome procedures related to trade
- inadequate infrastructure

## Impact:

- high overall transport costs
- lower competitiveness
- reduced trade flows
- lower GDP

## Data and evidence (World Bank):

- customs procedures and transport the single greatest trade cost component
- higher than import tariffs in landlocked developing countries
- red tape costs 10 per cent of the value of exports (in developing countries)
- larger inventories (due to inefficient customs and transport) increase production costs by about 5 per cent

## Data and evidence (World Bank):

- each additional day in transport – one half per cent of shipment's value
- duration of export and imports (in days) is by almost 50 per cent longer in landlocked developing countries (relative to global average)
- physical infrastructure accounts for about a quarter of that “delay”
- three-quarters accounted by customs and inspection

## The UN Millennium Declaration (September 2000)

- adopted by heads of state and government
- lays out a set of development goals
- recognizes the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries

## General Assembly Resolution 56/180 (December 2001)

- requested the Secretary General to convene in 2003 an international ministerial meeting of:
- landlocked and transit developing countries
- donor countries
- international financial and development institutions

## The General Assembly convened the UN Conference (2003):

- adopted the Almaty Programme of Action
- “Addressing the Special Needs of landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries”

## The overall objective:

To forge partnerships to overcome the special problems of landlocked developing countries related to:

- - lack of access to sea
- - remoteness
- - isolation from world markets

To establish efficient transit transport systems

- - recognize the link between transport, trade and economic growth

## Specific objectives:

- secure access to and from sea (st. international law)
- reduce transport costs
- address problems of delays and uncertainties in trade routes
- develop adequate national networks
- reduce loss and damage en route
- encourage export expansion

## The General Assembly in its Resolution 61/212 (March 2007):

- decided to hold a mid-term review of the APA in 2008
- the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island States to coordinate
- the review should be preceded, where necessary, by national, subregional and regional preparations
- within the existing resources

## The role of UN regional commissions:

- intergovernmental mechanisms, including those of UN regional commissions, should be effectively utilized
- the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support to the review process

## Developments to date:

- Report of the Secretary General (A/61/302, Sept. 2006) on the progress made
- based on the information provided by countries and international organizations
- a list of initiatives by priorities in the APA
- conclusions and recommendations

## Conclusions:

- efficient transit requires closer and more effective cooperation and collaboration among countries
- a critical role to be played by regional economic integration
- regional agreements to be implemented effectively
- policy reforms to stress institutions, procedures and regulations
- reduction of excessive paperwork and red tape

## Developments to date:

- Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development, Burkina Faso, June 2007
- Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation, Mongolia, August 2007