

Summary of the consultation meeting on implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDC (2024-2034) in Mongolia

4 November 2025, Ulaanbaatar

The Consultation meeting on implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action (APOA) for LLDC (2024-2034) in Mongolia was organized on 4 November 2025 in the UN House, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The meeting was participated by over 60 representatives from government of Mongolia, private sectors, academia and development communities. Representatives of the UN OHRLLS and UNESCAP also joined the meeting online as resource persons. The meeting also launched the Mongolian version of the APOA Booklet with translation support from the EU-ITDM.

Opening

Mr. Jaap Van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia, thanking all the partners for making the consultation happen, highlighted importance of bilateral cooperation between LLDCs and neighboring transit countries, regional and global partnerships to integrate LLDCs into value chains, and national strategies that embed APOA provisions into development policies for effective implementation of the APOA.

Ambassador Enkhbold Vorshilov, on behalf of Mr. Ulziisaikhan Ganbold, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, thanking all the concerned, highlighted importance of the Awaza APOA and explained purpose of the consultation, including awareness raising, national coordination, partnership, etc.

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries (ITLLDC), also thanking all the partners, highlighted importance of translating high-level commitment in the APOA into action, formulating a national committee for implementation, and developing an operational roadmap.

Introduction to APOA

Ambassador Enkhbold Vorshilov, an LLDC Focal Point in Mongolia from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented overview of the Awaza Programme of Action (APOA), including overview of LLDCs, evolution and development of APOA, and key provisions of the five priorities.

Toolkit for APOA Implementation

Mr. Tomás Manuel González Álvarez, Senior Programme Management Officer (LLDC Team Lead) and Ms. Yuki Mitsuka, Programme Management Officer, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), made a presentation on overall introduction of the APOA, including structure, deliverables follow-up and monitoring, and introduced the toolkit on mainstreaming the APOA.

Priority 1

Dr. Sangwon Lim, Economist, UNRCO, introduced priority 1 (structural transformation and science, technology and innovation), including four main components of priority 1 and targets and enabling actions for each component. He also briefly introduced findings from 2024 STI consultation in Mongolia, which was organized as part of preparing for the Summit of the Future.

Professor Bakey from Mongolian University of Life Sciences pointed out climate change, land degradation and desertification as Mongolia's challenge in agricultural sector. He mentioned challenges of a weak linkage between agriculture and processing/manufacturing due to lack of technology as well as accessibility and quality issues in market and logistics dimension. In this connection, he emphasized importance of mobilizing STI, including creating an STI knowledge eco-system. He also highlighted other challenges, including low level of investment in STI (0.2% of the GDP), insufficient engagement of youth in research, and limited value-added production in food industry.

Mr. Tulga Sukhdorj, Director of System Integration Department, e-Mongolia Academy, based on experience of implementing the e-Mongolia (a digital platform for provision of government services), emphasized the need for re-engineering government services in e-Mongolia as more user-friendly and user-centric, expedition in harnessing big data, including use of AI, and enhancement of digital literacy in schools, including catering for new way of digital education.

Priority 2

Mr. Yernfai Lee, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP. made a presentation on priority 2 (trade, trade facilitation and regional integration). His presentation focused on digital trade and trade digitalization, including Mongolia's performance, relevant ESCAP instruments and possible support to Mongolia from ESCAP in implementing the APOA.

Ms. D. Tsendsuren, Head of Division, Mongolian Customs General Administration, highlighted importance of trade facilitation, in particular implementation of a Single Window for simplification and harmonization of trade procedures. She also emphasized importance of freedom of transit with an example of border bottlenecks in Altanbulag. She further pointed out a need for developing value-added products and goods to access markets in third countries.

Professor Nomintsetseg, National University of Mongolia Business School, elaborated importance of regional integration, in particular a need to expand services trade, e-commerce and digital services, to meet the target of the APOA priority 2. She also emphasized importance of cooperation through international organizations, including regional cooperation for alleviating burdens from non-tariff barriers.

Priority 3

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, United Nations ESCAP made a presentation on Priority 3 (transit, transport and connectivity). In his presentation, Mr. Jain introduced main provisions of priority 3 and elaborated on importance of railway for transport and transit of Mongolia with a particular focus on use of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network. He also stressed importance of electronic information exchange in railway transport.

Ms. Gerelnyam, Head of Division, Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Road and Transport, pointed out a supportive role of the APOA in Mongolia's transit, transport and logistics. She also emphasized a need to align the APOA with national policies, mentioning Mongolia's effort to develop corridors for connecting with Europe and develop dry ports. She further highlighted the need to attract more foreign investment in transport infrastructure development and expedite digitalization in transport services.

Mr. Munkhbold, President, Mongolian Logistics Association, pointed out absence of an integrated logistics and transport policy as a major challenge. He highlighted importance of the APOA in enhancing Mongolia's transport and logistics, mentioning an issue of increased time and cost in Zamin-Uud border processing. He also mentioned a connectivity issue; Mongolia was not connected to other countries.

Priority 4

Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director, ITLLDC made a presentation on Priority 4 (enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and disasters). In his presentation, Mr. Dulguun elaborated on Mongolia's climate change vulnerabilities with a focus on impact of Dzud and explained how Mongolia should link APOA Implementation with its hosting of UNCCD COP17 in 2026.

Ambassador Batjargal Zamba, Academic Advisor, Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IRIMHE), emphasized relevance of the APOA to Mongolia, including in the context of climate change. He pointed out that Mongolia's extreme climate was impacted by changes in oceans, requiring LLDCs to also actively participate in the discussion of ocean related international conventions and link them to the APOA. He also pointed out that most climate-related international conventions lacked mentioning access to sea by LLDCs.

Closing and way forward

As the Mongolian version of the APOA has been distributed during the consultation, the meeting encouraged all stakeholders to thoroughly review its provisions. In doing so, they were requested to consider 1) how the APOA's actions could be integrated into Mongolia's national development policies and 2) what specific roles and contributions were expected from your respective organizations in the implementation process.

The meeting recommended that the Government of Mongolia should establish a multi-stakeholder forum. This forum should include representatives from government agencies, the private sector, and development partners. Its purpose would be to develop an ambitious and comprehensive national implementation strategy for the APOA.

The meeting called upon the organizing partners - Government of Mongolia, UN Mongolia, EU-ITDM, and ITLLDC - to continue supporting the implementation process, in partnership with relevant development partners. This would include organizing a series of consultations aimed at developing the national implementation strategy.
