



LLDCs
Landlocked Developing Countries
BOLIVIA
2025-2026
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Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries

Theme: Financing a New Decade of Development for Landlocked Developing Countries

2 July 2025, 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Special Event room FIBES 1, FFD4, Seville, Spain

CONCEPT NOTE

The 606 million people of the 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) confront distinct challenges in their pursuit of sustainable development and economic growth. Limited access to international markets and high transport costs are compounded by the growing climate and debt crises. The Plurinational State of Bolivia (Chair of the Group of LLDCs), the Kyrgyz Republic (Vice-Chair of the Group of LLDCs), and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) are convening a Ministerial Meeting as a Special Event to the Fourth Financing for Development (FFD4) Forum, in Seville, Spain, to bring together high-level representatives from LLDCs and key stakeholders to consider how the FFD4 outcome can support LLDCs to mobilize finance to implement the Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034.

1. Background and Context

In a rapidly evolving global landscape for development financing, the FFD4 outcome can provide a framework to guide how development is financed in the coming decade.

The 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face persisting structural disadvantages to their development due to geographical constraints, which limit their access to international markets and increase transportation costs. These constraints are compounded by challenges in development financing due to a combination of large informal sectors, limited tax bases, and dependency on volatile commodity prices. Tax revenues as a share of GDP in LLDCs remain well below the average of developed and many other developing countries, with some struggling to reach 10% of GDP.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is crucial for LLDCs to facilitate structural economic transformation and overcome infrastructure deficits. However, despite increasing needs,



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investment trends have been tepid in recent years. In 2023, FDI inflows in LLDCs were just under \$25 billion, below their peak of approximately \$36 billion in 2011.¹

Official Development Assistance (ODA) has also declined. From a high of \$38.1 billion in 2020, ODA to the 32 LLDCs fell to \$32 billion in 2023.² Their share of total ODA to developing countries dropped from 16% in 2020 to 12% in 2023. In 2024, ODA from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members declined by an estimated 7.1% in real terms. Projections for 2025 and beyond are even more concerning, with 12 DAC members announcing significant aid reductions. OECD simulations suggest that aid levels could fall by 9–17% in a single year.³

Merchandise trade receipts continue to underperform. Despite accounting for 7% of the global population, LLDCs contribute only 1.2% of global merchandise trade.⁴ Their trade and transport costs are disproportionately high—export times are double those of coastal countries, and logistics costs are up to 74% higher than in neighboring transit countries.⁵

External debt has risen in recent years, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global crises. Nearly one-third of LLDCs are now at high risk of, or already in, debt distress.⁶ A growing reliance on private sector loans and bonds has introduced new vulnerabilities.

Inadequate infrastructure amplifies the LLDCs' geographic disadvantages by further raising the cost of port access and remoteness from global markets. Bridging the infrastructure gap will require an estimated \$509 billion over 20 years, including 200,000 km of paved roads and 46,000 km of railways.

An Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility (IIFF) is a key deliverable of the Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034. Its importance is further reinforced as a commitment in the FFD4 Outcome Document. This meeting provides an opportunity to strategically consider and give political direction to the form and potential role of an IIFF as a tool for prioritizing quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, as well as climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

a. Financing the Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034

The meeting takes place following the adoption in December 2024 by the United Nations General Assembly of the new Awaza Programme of Action (APoA) for the LLDCs for the Decade 2024–

¹ Calculations based on UNCTAD Stat (2025)

² Calculations based on OECD DAC (2025)

³ OECD. 2025. Preliminary official development assistance levels in 2024, available: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD\(2025\)6/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD(2025)6/en/pdf)

⁴ Calculations based on UNCTAD Stat (2025)

⁵ UN-OHRLLS (2025). Quantifying Logistics Costs for Landlocked Developing Countries

⁶ IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis: <https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/ft/dsa/DSAlist.pdf>



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2034, under resolution [A/RES/79/233](#), which represents a renewed commitment to support the development aspirations of the 32 LLDCs.

The APoA addresses key structural challenges faced by LLDCs - high trade costs, limited economic diversification, and infrastructure deficits - by promoting trade facilitation, structural transformation, transport connectivity, technology, and climate resilience.

In this context, the meeting provides a platform to explore financing options aligned with the five priority areas of the APoA. Specifically, it will consider how the FFD4 Outcome can serve as a framework to drive implementation through:

Mobilizing resources: Unlocking additional and innovative financing from public and private sources to close the sustainable development financing gap.

Policy Reforms: Supporting national revenue generation reforms, enhancing global financial governance, and aligning international support with national development strategies.

International Cooperation: Shaping the future of development cooperation and collective measures to ensure conducive international financial architecture, including through addressing debt sustainability.

2. Objectives of the Meeting

The objective of this ministerial meeting is to consider how the FFD4 outcome can be harnessed to support the sustainable economic development of the LLDCs, including by driving the implementation of the APoA and achieving the specific deliverable of an Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility for LLDCs.

Specific objectives include:

1. **Aligning FFD4 Outcomes with LLDC Priorities**: Discussing how the commitments and initiatives outlined in the FFD4 outcome document can be harnessed to meet the specific needs and priorities of LLDCs.
2. **Mobilizing Resources**: Identifying strategies to mobilize financial and technical resources to support the implementation of the APoA, including an Infrastructure Financing Facility for LLDCs.
3. **Strengthening Partnerships**: Enhancing cooperation among LLDCs, development partners, international financial institutions, and the private sector to foster sustainable development ahead of the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs.



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3. Expected Outcomes

The meeting is expected to result in the following outcomes captured in a Meeting Summary:

1. Articulate specific LLDC financing priorities: Expressing collective development financing challenges, opportunities and priorities and articulating the actions needed to seize FFD4 as a framework for financing development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034 and key deliverables such as an Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility for LLDCs.
2. Build momentum towards LLDC3: Contribute to developing the partnerships needed to realize the theme of LLDC3 on ‘Driving Progress through Partnerships’.

4. Participants

The meeting will bring together ministers and high-level representatives from LLDCs, development partners, international financial institutions, and other relevant stakeholders.

5. Agenda

1. **Opening Segment**: Welcome remarks and keynote addresses
2. **General Debate**: Remarks by Ministers of LLDCs followed by International and Regional Organizations and other stakeholders
3. **Closing Segment**: Closing remarks

6. Logistics

Date: Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

Time: 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Room: Special Event room FIBES 1, FFD4, Seville, Spain

7. Contact Information

For further information, please contact: Jamie.macleod@un.org, erica.carroll@un.org, franz.zubieta.mariscal@gmail.com, and azizova.aijan@gmail.com