



LLDC3 Preparatory Committee, 5 February 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Cassar

Africa, Economic and Development Coordinator of Malta to the UN, New York

Co-Chairs, Excellencies

We thank you for the work carried out so far, together with the other members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, and for convening this first session.

Malta aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union and Member States and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

The challenges facing landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are a critical test to our promise of 'leaving no one behind'. We echo the Secretary-General's observation that LLDCs "do not receive nearly enough global attention". We draw attention to their fight against climate change, with a number of LLDCs grappling with persistent desertification, leading to food and water insecurity, productivity loss, instability, and potentially, conflict.

With a combined population of over 500 million, accompanied by geographical challenges, cooperation is a key tool in assisting LLDCs, and in ensuring that they are re-integrated to the global market.



Malta is committed to playing its part in shaping a resilient future for LLDCs, including achieving the SDGs and being connected through partnerships. This lies at the core of the EU's Global Gateway Initiative, leading investments underpinned by the principles of sustainability and the universal values of high standards that deliver for people and planet – from financing connectivity in Central Asia, to supporting trade and economic development in Africa.

Nationally, through Malta's overseas development assistance, we have been facilitating access to post-graduate education for students from Ethiopia, and supporting projects that address food security in Afghanistan.

Co-Chairs

Malta has supported the Vienna Programme of Action and its six priority areas. Looking ahead, the Kigali Programme of Action comes at a critical juncture that will continue shaping the future of LLDCs. We trust that this new global framework charters a sustainable path that transforms LLDCs' economies, eradicates poverty, combats climate change, and closes the gap in inequalities. We reaffirm our belief that gender equality is an essential precondition to sustainable development and peace in this regard.

To conclude, we look forward to our discussions and you can count on our support to the future of LLDCs in our global multilateral project. I thank you.