



**Third United Nations
Conference on
Landlocked Developing
Countries**

Private Sector Forum

5-6 August 2025

Awaza, Turkmenistan

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) is to be held in Awaza, Turkmenistan, from 5 to 8 August 2025, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the theme “Driving progress through partnerships”. The Conference will forge partnerships to implement a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

The LLDC3 Private Sector Forum is a high-level opportunity for businesses to engage with global leaders to strategize on channeling the power of the private sector to shape the sustainable development agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 606 million people of the 32 LLDCs.

The two-day Forum will feature a high-level opening dialogue, four thematic sessions, side-events and networking and exhibition areas with booths. The LLDC3 Private Sector Forum is co-organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan, the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan, and UN-OHRLLS.

Priority thematic areas

Business in the LLDC group of countries can be overlooked with focus drawn to the challenges of being landlocked, yet profound opportunities exist both within the LLDCs and in the addressing of these challenges. The Private Sector Forum will focus on the following priority thematic areas of the private sector:

- **Trade & Transit:** Getting goods to and from LLDCs entails considerable business in the areas of transport, logistics, freight forwarding and customs clearance, as well as alignment in government trade and transit procedures and processes. In 2024 alone, imports into LLDCs reached \$344 billion while exports amounted to \$281 billion.¹
- **Growth Opportunities:** LLDCs abound in untapped business opportunities—exports of travel and tourism services in LLDCs reached \$20 billion in 2023. LLDCs are rich in primary commodities (accounting for 83% of their exports), with many LLDCs having potential in the critical mineral resources needed for the adoption of green technologies, such as batteries and solar energy equipment.
- **Digital Development:** Digital transformation has opened up new possibilities for the international supply of digital services that has seen exports in digitally-deliverable services from LLDCs increase by 113% since 2019, more than triple the average growth rate for the rest of the world.²
- **Financing & Investment:** A rapid expansion in FDI is needed to seize the opportunities of the LLDCs. Just bringing the road and rail infrastructure of all the LLDCs to global benchmarks would involve an estimated \$509.3 billion in investments.³

¹ UNCTAD (2025). UNCTAD Statistics. Merchandise: Total trade and share, annual

² UNCTAD (2025). UNCTAD Statistics. International trade in digitally-deliverable services, value, shares and growth, annual

³ See https://www.un.org/ohrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrls/files/lllcs_publications/lllcs_report_18_digital_final.pdf

Outcomes

- **Private Sector Priorities for Action Document:** identifying public-private recommendations and actions to support sustainable development in LLDCs with inputs determined by each thematic session chair and with a focus on how the private sector can drive sustainable development in LLDCs and the partnerships required with governments to deliver upon the SDGs.
- **Showcased partnerships:** the presentation of pledges and commitments to advance the private sector contribution to the achievement of the priorities contained in the Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034.
- **LLDC Global Business Network:** establishment of a global platform for private sector perspectives for the sustainable development of LLDCs.

Why attend?

The LLDC Private Sector Forum provides a once-in-a-decade opportunity for businesses to build transformative partnerships and mobilize investments across the LLDCs, which have a combined population of 606 million people, set to reach 1 billion by 2060. This is an opportunity for the voice of business to be central to these discussions and for participants to:

- **Hear from and interact with world leaders** on the projects, programmes and priorities for development in LLDCs.
- **Shape the implementation of the Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2024-2034** that will guide the overall engagement of the entire UN system across the 32 landlocked developing countries.
- **Build transformative partnerships** across governments, world leaders, heads of UN agencies, chief executives and global investors.
- **Articulate the voice of business** in a Private Sector Priorities for Action Document for the LLDCs.
- **Gain a platform to launch concrete programmes, partnerships and initiatives** for the LLDCs and to identify implementation partners.
- **Engage with Youth Entrepreneurs** from across the LLDCs and hear how the challenges of being landlocked are being overcome by a new generation of innovative start-ups.
- **Attend Private Sector Forum Special Events** which are to be hosted by a range of businesses, business support organization, and partners focused on pressing development questions.
- **Participate in exhibitions** with businesses and their partners featuring work, products and initiatives in LLDCs.

By charting pathways for connecting landlocked countries to markets, the implementation of the Programme of Action will depend on the active engagement of the private sector.

Where and when?

The LLDC3 Private Sector Forum will take place on **5-6 August 2025** in Awaza, Turkmenistan, at the center of the third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) on 5-8 August 2025.

Additional information on the Private Sector Forum is available on the dedicated Forum webpage: www.un.org/en/landlocked/private-sector-forum

Co-organizing partners



How can I attend the LLDC3 Private Sector Forum?

Interested businesses, business associations, business support organizations and other related organizations are invited to visit the participate section of the LLDC3 website for the latest information on accreditation and registration at the following link: <https://www.un.org/en/landlocked/participate>

Participants are encouraged to ensure that their organization or business is duly accredited ahead of published deadlines and that each participating individual is registered. Participants are required to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Focal Points

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More information on LLDC3 is available at: **Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries | United Nations**