

AWAZA Programme of Action 2024-2034 and the ECO Region

Presentation by:
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ECO Secretariat-Tehran





Structure of the Presentation

- Priority areas of AWAZA Programme of Action
- Priority area 3: Transit, transport and connectivity
- Implementation, follow-up and monitoring of AWAZA Programme of Action
- Regional reviews and mainstreaming
- Envisaged actions for implementation of AWAZA Programme of Action in the ECO Region
- ECO and UN OHRLLS
- Near Opportunities in the ECO to address AWAZA Programme of Action
- AWAZA webpage in the ECO website



5 Priority areas of AWAZA PoA

*“The AWAZA Programme of Action is grounded in the overarching goals of addressing the **special development needs, vulnerabilities and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner**”*

Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

Priority area 1: Structural transformation and science, technology and innovation

- I. Productive capacity development
- II. Private sector development
- III. Science, technology and innovation
- IV. Industrialization

Priority area 2: Trade, trade facilitation and regional integration

- I. International trade
- II. Trade facilitation
- III. Regional integration and cooperation

Priority area 3: Transit, transport and connectivity

- I. Transit transport connectivity
- II. Digital connectivity
- III. Energy



5 Priority areas of AWAZA PoA

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Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

Priority area 4: Enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and disasters

- Adaptation
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate finance
- Resilient infrastructure development
- Loss and damage
- Biodiversity loss

Priority area 5: Means of implementation

- Domestic resource mobilization
- Official development assistance and other sources of external finance
- Foreign direct investment
- Remittances
- Debt relief and concessional financing



Priority area 3: Transit, transport and connectivity

I. Transit transport connectivity

TARGETS

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Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

1. Achieve unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of the freedom of transit in accordance with applicable rules of international law, especially Part X of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and section I, article 11, of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.
2. Develop resilient, sustainable, safe and smart transit infrastructure to fulfil Sustainable Development Goal targets 9.1.2, 9.a and 3.9.
3. Establish a high-level panel of experts with a view to identifying ways and means to ensure seamless access for the landlocked developing countries to and from the sea.
4. Significantly expand, upgrade and maintain access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport infrastructure and national and crossboundary connectivity, including through multimodal systems and closing the missing links in regional infrastructure, while strengthening institutional capacities to manage transport services.



Priority area 3: Transit, transport and connectivity

Transit transport connectivity

TARGETS

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Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

5. Develop standardized cross-border transport infrastructure and transit requirements between landlocked developing countries and transit countries.
6. Explore the establishment of an infrastructure investment finance facility for landlocked developing countries.
7. Aim to establish and strengthen the air transport system in landlocked developing countries with the purpose of developing efficient transit systems, enhancing competitiveness, strengthening regional cooperation and expanding international trade



Priority area 3: Transit, transport and connectivity

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Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

II. Digital connectivity

TARGETS

1. Significantly increase access to information and communications technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in landlocked developing countries.
2. Achieve universal access to the Internet by 2030 by expanding access to both submarine cables and other available sources, including satellite -based Internet connectivity.
3. Substantially increase investments from all sources in digital as well as human and institutional capacity-building with a view to improving digital transit and transport infrastructure within an international enabling environment.
4. Expand connectivity and digital transformation in landlocked developing countries with a focus on but not limited to hardest-to connect communities, including through the Partner2Connect initiative.



Implementation, follow-up and monitoring of AWAZA Programme of Action

“The AWAZA Programme of Action is grounded in the overarching goals of addressing the special development needs, vulnerabilities and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner”

Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

- I. National Reviews
- II. Regional Reviews
- III. Global-level implementation
- IV. Mainstreaming the Programme of Action
- V. Full mobilization of the United Nations system
- VI. Role of the Board of Advisers to the President of the General Assembly on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries
- VII. Preparation of a comprehensive road map and implementation and monitoring framework
- VIII. Network of national focal points
- IX. Strengthening national statistical capacity
- X. Undertaking thematic review and analytical work
- XI. Role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- XII. Midterm review and the Fourth United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries



*We emphasize that efficient follow-up and monitoring mechanisms adopted at the national, **subregional, regional** and global levels are crucial for the successful implementation of the present Programme of Action*

*We reaffirm **that national, regional and global mechanisms should be mutually complementary and reinforcing.***

*We underscore that **national leadership and ownership** of development strategies and policies of landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners must be ensured ...*

*We stress that implementation, follow-up and review undertaken at the national, **subregional, regional** and global levels should be a continuous process, coupled with **close coordination and cooperation with transit countries** and development partners as well as all other relevant stakeholders....*

Quote from AWAZA Programme of Action

Regional reviews and mainstreaming

Action at regional level

Inclusive regional processes

- To draw on national-level reviews
- Assist in biennial regional reviews by UN
- Submit analytical reports

Action at regional level

Mainstreaming the Programme of Action

To mainstream PoA into development strategies, frameworks and strategic plans by:

1. landlocked countries
2. Transit countries
3. Subregional and regional organizations
4. Development partners
5. United Nations system



**THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**
AWAZA 2025



Economic Cooperation Organization

ECO





Tehran Ministerial Declaration 2025

*“Underscore the importance of implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action and providing the ECO Land Locked Countries with uninterrupted access to transport infrastructure, within the framework of national legislation and international agreements
.....*

ECO Vision 2025

Addressing the unique challenges faced by the seven landlocked Member States of the ECO needs to be given paramount

Envisaged actions for implementation of AWAZA Programme of Action in the ECO Region

Action 1. With Landlocked Member States

- Assisting in their national reviews
- Receiving data and updates as per PoA
- Organizing workshops/seminars/capacity building

Action 2. Within the ECO frameworks

- Mainstreaming relevant PoA provisions into ECO documents
- Addressing PoA in ECO sectoral meetings
- Preparing regional inputs for relevant UN review processes

Action 3. With existing and potential partners

Coordination/cooperation/joint meetings with:

- UN OHRLLS
- UNESCAP and UNECE
- ECO transport related partners
- transport regional and international organizations as mandated by PoA
- Donors, development banks and financing institutions as mandated by PoA



ECO and UN OHRLLS

The ECO Secretary General and the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) met in AWAZA on the sidelines of the 3rd UN Conference.

They agreed that the ECO and the OHRLLS need to have technical level meetings to discuss bilateral cooperation, including on the implementation of the AWAZA Programme of Action.





*Near Opportunities in the ECO to address
AWAZA Programme of Action*

2026



14th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport

Kazakhstan



4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on ICT

Pakistan



**International Financing Conference for ECO
Transport Corridors and Projects**

Kazakhstan/another Member
State

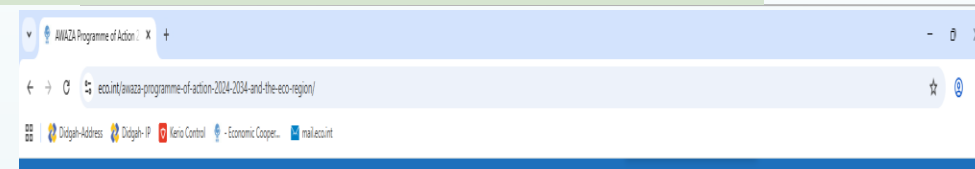


**ECO Kick-off Meeting on Implementation
of the AWAZA Programme of Action in the
ECO Region**

*Secretariat/ a landlocked
Member State*



All relevant ECO transport meetings



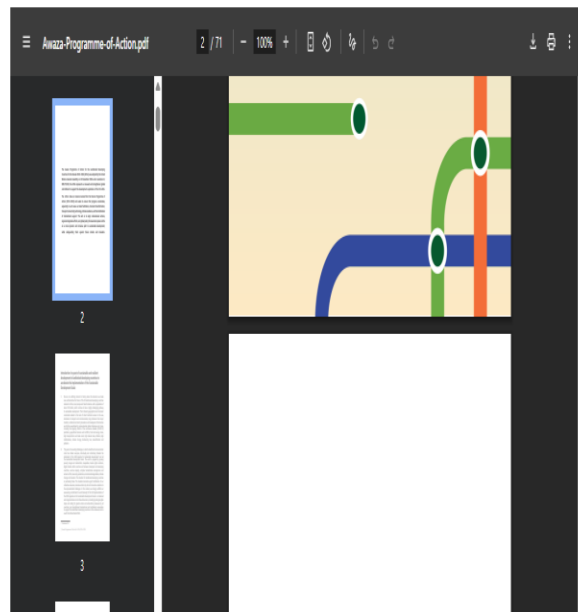
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**THIRD UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AWAZA 2025**

The Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 24 December 2024 under resolution [A/RES/79/233](#). It was the outcome of "Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries", hosted by Turkmenistan from 5 to 8 August 2025 in Awaza.



<https://eco.int/>



<https://eco.int/elementor-6936/transport-and-communications/>



<https://eco.int/awaza-programme-of-action-2024-2034-and-the-eco-region/>



Thank you for your attention

Transport and Communications Directorate, ECO Secretariat- Tehran

<https://eco.int/elementor-6936/transport-and-communications/>