Midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming its resolution 934 (XLVIII), in which it invited African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/232 of 20 December 2017, in which the Assembly decided to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, which was to be held no later than December 2019, and decided also that the high-level midterm review was to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, as appropriate and within existing resources,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on the export earnings and the private capital inflow of landlocked developing countries, as well as on their ability to mobilize their domestic resources, and as a result, adversely affects the overall sustainable development of those countries,

Reaffirming the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want for achieving structural transformation and sustainable development in Africa, and recognizing the important contribution of the full implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the aspirations of Agenda 2063,

Noting that African landlocked developing countries have made mixed progress towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and continue to lack adequate infrastructure, in particular, transport, energy and information communications technology infrastructure, and also continue to concentrate their export markets on a very limited number of products and to be confronted with complex development challenges,

Underlining the importance of improved trade facilitation and the need to accelerate implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization, as well as regional, subregional and national trade facilitation programmes and initiatives,
Recognizing the crucial role of enhanced regional integration to the development of landlocked developing countries by improving transport connectivity and ensuring greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to expand regional markets,

Recognizing also the importance of implementing the Agreement on Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa for the integration of African landlocked developing countries into regional and global trade,

Reaffirming the importance of strong partnerships with transit developing countries, development partners, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector and other stakeholders to further strengthen the efforts of African landlocked developing countries to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. **Encourages** African landlocked developing and transit developing countries to intensify their efforts to implement the Vienna Programme of Action;

2. **Calls upon** development partners, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector and other stakeholders to further strengthen their efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

3. **Encourages** African landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their development strategies;

4. **Invites** regional and subregional organizations that have not yet done so to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work and to provide technical and financial support for its implementation;

5. **Calls upon** the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide technical support to the region’s landlocked developing countries in areas related to the Vienna Programme of Action, such as infrastructure investment, transport facilitation, productive capacity development, logistical integration and logistics cost studies;

6. **Requests** the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional organizations to assist further African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in infrastructure development, development of bankable projects, production capacity development, trade facilitation and structural transformation through, in particular, enhanced investment and technical assistance, and to promote greater cooperation between African landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries and enhanced regional integration;

7. **Requests** the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to submit the outcome of the Africa regional review to the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to be held in New York, in December 2019;

8. **Requests** the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to undertake the ten-year regional review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for African landlocked developing countries.