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**Special Event during 80th Session of ESCAP**

**15:30 - 17:00**

**24 April 2024**

**Bangkok**

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| **Title:** | **Exchange of views on the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) and Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)** |
| **Description** | Two landmark UN conferences are set to take place in 2024 that will guide sustainable development for the world’s 32 Landlocked Developing Countries, and 38 Small Island Developing States over the next decade.  The Third UN Conference on LLDCs (LLDC3) will take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 18-21 June 2024. It will be the first time an LLDC conference is hosted in Africa. This Conference offers an extraordinary opportunity to address ongoing challenges, build resilience, and unlock the full potentials of LLDCs, including those offered by the science, technology and innovations, for a more equitable and prosperous future, especially through a new generation of global partnerships for development. The Conference to be held at the Heads of State and Government level will adopt a new 10-year programme of action for LLDCs, which is under negotiations by the Member States.  The Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) will take place from 27-30 May in Antigua and Barbuda. SIDS are in the crossfires of multiple crises: climate change, the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and debt crisis. In Antigua and Barbuda, the international community will gather to review SIDS’ sustainable development progress and propose a new decade of partnerships and solutions to supercharge their path to resilient prosperity, including through leveraging new opportunities, especially those offered by science, technology and innovations.  In her capacity as Secretary-General of LLDC3 and Special Adviser for SIDS4, the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Ms. Rabab Fatima will provide a briefing on the status of substantive and organizational preparations for both conferences, covering intergovernmental and various stakeholders’ tracks, including private sector, CSO, youth, parliamentarians, south-south and UN system organizations. She will also update on the status of negotiations on the programmes of actions for LLDCs and SIDS and highlight key features of the two documents and how those are vitally important for the Asia-Pacific LLDCs and SIDS. The briefing will also address how leveraging digital innovation can bring transformative changes in the LLDCs and SIDS and how they feature in the next programmes of action for LLDCs and SIDS. She will engage in an exchange of views with the Asia-Pacific leaders on the two Conferences. |
| **Lead organizers** | UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), and  UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) |
| **Tentative list of speakers** | * Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) * Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UN-ESCAP * Prime Minister of Nepal/Head of Delegation (Vice Chair of the LLDC Group) * Prime Minister of Vanuatu/Head of Delegation (Chair of the Pacific SIDS Group at the United Nations) |
| **Event Format** | The event will be a high-level briefing followed by an interactive dialogue. |
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| **Language** | English |