

**Enhancing regional integration of landlocked developing countries
in North and Central Asia through infrastructure connectivity**
6 – 7 September 2017, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Following presentations by participants from landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in North and Central Asia, their neighbouring countries, ESCAP and other international organizations, participants in the seminar “Enhancing regional integration of landlocked developing countries in North and Central Asia through infrastructure connectivity” adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:
2. Participants recognized that ongoing shifting of the centre of the global economic development to Asia creates new opportunities for LLDCs in North and Central Asia and South Caucasus as a transit hub between Asia, Europe and the Middle East.
3. Participants provided information on current regional economic integration processes and connectivity initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union, the Belt and Road Initiative and the Economic Cooperation Organization in support of further economic cooperation and integration at the subregional level.
4. Participants provided information on the current state of cross-border and national infrastructure initiatives and projects in North, Central and South Asia as well as South Caucasus.

5. Participants recognized synergy from multisectoral infrastructure development and the importance to take it into full consideration in infrastructure planning.
6. Participants noted the opportunities provided by ESCAP regional multilateral agreements and initiatives to assist member states and especially to LLDCs to strengthen regional economic cooperation and connectivity such as the Intergovernmental Agreements on Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports; Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific; Asia Pacific Information Superhighway; and Asia Pacific Energy Highway.
7. Recognizing the role of ESCAP as a norm-setting body in Asia and the Pacific, participants expressed willingness to closely cooperate with ESCAP in developing and strengthening infrastructure connectivity.
8. Participants requested ESCAP to continue training activities and producing analytical and technical reports/studies on infrastructure and institutional connectivity in North, Central and South Asia and South Caucasus, as well as on synergy of multisectoral infrastructure development.
9. Participants requested ESCAP to continue cooperation activities with other relevant regional and subregional organizations and initiatives to further promote synergies on enhancing connectivity and integration processes within North, Central and South Asia and South Caucasus.
10. The conclusions and recommendations above were unanimously adopted on 7 September 2017 at Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.