

**U Office of the High Representative for the Least**

UN-OHRLLS pursuant to its advocacy mandate on SIDS issues and in the context of the

Challenge”. The theme aimed at striking a balance between sustaining the development of our marine resources with the interests of preservation and conservation. The Communiqué of the meeting stated that Pacific Island leaders agreed that, as ‘Large Ocean Island States’, Forum Island Countries have a leading role to play in management of the Pacific Ocean. The Communiqué also recognized the Pacific Island Leaders’ aspirations to maximise sustainable economic returns for Forum Members from ocean resources, including fisheries and seabed minerals, in accordance with the precautionary approach of Rio Principle 15.

### **Land locked developing countries**

Landlocked countries not only face the challenge of distance, but also the challenges that result from a dependence on passage through a sovereign country, i.e., one which trade from a landlocked country must pass in order to access international shipping markets. Although there is a legal basis for rights of landlocked developing countries to access to and from the sea, as outlined in Article 125(1) of the United Nations Convention of the Law Of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982), in practice, this right of access must be agreed upon with the transit neighbour (Article 125(2) and (3) and is determined by the relationship and cooperation between the countries concerned.

Of the 31 landlocked developing States<sup>4</sup> (LLDCs) 18 have either ratified or acceded

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poverty, substantially inflating transportation costs and lowering their effective participation in international trade by LLDCs.

The key challenge for LLDCs with regard to the implementation of UNCLOS is how both landlocked and transit developing countries fulfil the obligations incumbent upon State Parties under the Convention. In this endeavour, the role of United Nations will be critical in the monitoring of, collection of information on and reporting on State practice