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**Remarks by Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-  
General, and High Representative, for the Least Developed  
Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States**

**at the**

**Question and Answer Session with the International  
Trade Centre (ITC) Staff Members**

**ITC, Geneva  
19 February 2014**

**Good morning to you all,**

It is my pleasure to come back again to ITC after the last visit I did ten years ago when I participated in the ITC Joint Advisory Group. I am looking forward to a lively dialogue with you on the development issues of the vulnerable countries that I represent namely - the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

I would like to start by highlighting to you the vibe that is in New York concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. We have a wealth of resources on the issues including the report of the High level panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the report of the Secretary General “*A Life of Dignity for All*”, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a UNDG Post-2015 Report, Global Compact report on Post 2015, the summary report of the Open Working Group on the SDGs and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held in September last year.

The new agenda must go beyond the MDGs. It must be inclusive and incorporate sustainability. All the three dimensions of sustainable development must be balanced and integrated. In addition the development - peace- and human rights nexus has to be well integrated. Development goals must be holistic, focused, limited in number, universal yet differentiated. The goals should be measurable and should allow for accountability. There is need for strengthened partnership of all stakeholders in moving the development agenda. The development agenda should have poverty eradication, rapid economic growth and sustainable

future for all at its core. Global institutions including the World Bank, WTO, IMF, Multi-lateral development Banks and others have a very crucial role to play in order to successfully nurture this agenda.

Now turning to the vulnerable countries, how can we include their needs in the Post 2015 development agenda? The 3 groups of countries have programmes of actions that we are currently implementing. The LDCs - the Istanbul Programme of Action, the LLDCs the Almaty Programme of Action, and the SIDS the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS. Their common challenges include: low level of development (they are trapped in poverty and have structural rigidities), low share of global trade, remoteness, poor infrastructure development, low productivity, jobless growth, and high level of poverty.

The LDCs need enhanced productive capacities, trade promotion, and promotion of private sector development as enablers for rapid economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication. They also require diversification, addressing supply-side constraints and resilience building. Support measures such as the duty free quota free, aid for trade and the enhanced integrated framework are critical to increase their share of trade.

The LLDCs require trade promotion, improved transit, intensified infrastructure development, regional integration, resilience building, improving productive capacities and addressing desertification and land degradation. The Second UN Conference on LLDCs will be held 3-5 November 2014, in Austria. The conference is being organized to review the Almaty Programme of Action and come up with a new programme.

The SIDS require connectivity, better utilization of ocean resources, market size, resilient economy and climate change mitigation and adaptation. We are organizing the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held 1 - 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa.

Let me now turn to ITC and your core competence and its relevancy to the vulnerable countries. In your work on promoting trade, economic growth, poverty eradication and resilience building, you need to build in the sustainable development nexus. You are supporting the development of SMEs through trade intelligence, analysis and strengthening their competitiveness to increase exports and join global value chains. In your work, you are obtaining information that is very important for promoting sustainable development. Make sure that the interventions or recommendations that you come up with address all the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The means of implementation is very important for our work to be effective on the ground in vulnerable countries. In the Post 2015 development agenda we are looking at an expanded agenda that goes beyond the MDGs and it demands much more resources. ODA remains very critical. Trade plays a very important role for achieving rapid economic growth needed to support social development. Investment, technology transfer, south-south cooperation, debt relief and domestic resources are important to build the internal capacity required to generate growth that can be sustained. We also need to fully utilise innovative sources of funding and the private sector.

ITC's work is key to the future of vulnerable countries. Your work should help turn their constraints into opportunities so that they can achieve rapid

economic growth that is inclusive and environmentally sustainable. These countries have a wealth of resources including the large youth population and an abundance of natural resources. Let us all work together in a more coordinated manner to move the development agenda forward ensuring that all the three dimensions are addressed in a well-balanced way.

I thank you.