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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and
Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

Closing Statement

by

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for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**at Retreat of Ambassadors in preparation of the Second United
Nations Conference on LLDCs**

**10 May 2014
Glen Cove Mansion Hotel and Conference Centre, Long
Island, New York**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I thank you all for making yourself available for a very important debate and discussions which were very illuminating, engaging and very comprehensive. I wish to congratulate you for your dedication and your valuable contribution. I think we have made considerable progress today and I wish to congratulate all of you.

I think after today we must have a bird's eye's view but we also need a worm's eye's view. We need to see both sides; the broader picture and the closer picture. Success is when you refuse to be a captive of the environment that you are in, so was said by Mark Caine. This is the attempt that we have done today. You should not be a captive of the landlocked environment that you are in today. The success lies in how you can get out of it and how you can grow beyond it.

We have reached a critical junction in the preparation for the Second UN Conference on the LLDCs and I believe with the national reports, regional reviews, various pre-conference events and other discussions like the one we had today there is a solid basis for drafting a holistic but results oriented and focused Programme of Action.

We have discussed the core elements of a new Programme of Action. I do not want to summarise all of them, I hope that the summary report will be very exhaustive so that we do not lose the essential points. But I would like to say that some of the key issues keep coming up again with more reinforcement. I will just highlight a few that you have mentioned.

1. The role of infrastructure development and the gap in the infrastructure investment that we have in LLDCs.
2. Transit issues and how we can take it forward in terms of really making it work with a best practices repository, sharing of experiences between the different regions and develop a good dialogue mechanism between the LLDCs, transit countries and development partners to develop a best transit arrangement that can create a win-win situation for all. Determining the facilitative measures and legal arrangements, practical implications and implementation on the ground to support the transformation of the LLDCs.

3. Structural transformation, enhancing productive capacities, value-addition, diversification, and linking up into the global value chains and trade in services.
4. Fostering the role and contribution of the private sector and supporting the SMEs is sustainable in contributing to. The need for the capacity building of the LLDCs to have the private sector work in a manner that it is sustainable; it is inclusive; and contributory to the progress and economic development in these countries.
5. Regional integration and how to bring it further.
6. Building resilience of the LLDCs to external shocks including the climate change impact.
7. There is need for a strong national strategy is very important for developing the relevant policies for example industrial policies or transit issues. It is also important to make sure that the LLDCs achieve strong trade competitiveness, can develop value addition and can develop the linkages with the global value chains. Globalisation has to work for the LLDCs. In our study on the cost of being landlocked, we found that it is not only that the share of the LLDCs in trade is limited, not that only the investment is limited, even the ideas are also limited and the way in which they look at the global regime is limited. So we have to make sure that they can come out of this cocoon. The globalisation efforts at the global level must find its reflection in the LLDCs so that they become part of it through greater linkages, ICTs and technology transfer.
8. The LLDCs will also be reliant on international support. Thus the twin pillars of national and international strategies are crucial. ODA is still very important for the LLDCs in the short and medium term and needs to be increased and its impact enhanced. ODA will not be enough, the investment gap is high, so FDI will be critical, and so is increasing access to technology. Facilitative measures to market access are critical, better transit facilities are important, reducing non-tariff barriers to trade, innovative sources of funding will be critical, and remittances will be important. Therefore development partners both the traditional and new ones should commit to increasing support to the LLDCs, so that more progress can be achieved.

There is need for strong linkages with the global processes in particular the Post 2015 Development Agenda. These are some of the very important

issues to the LLDCs that we expect from the conference in Vienna. Leaving no one behind is our objective. We also would like to achieve life and dignity for all.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee meeting will be held on 12 and 13 June. The main mandate is to prepare the outcome document of the conference. I am sure today's meeting helped the LLDCs, transit developing countries and their partners to understand each other's views, positions and expectations. This, I am sure will help negotiations during the Prepcom.

I would like to urge all of you that there is need for strong support to the conference in Vienna. If there is high level participation from the LLDCs, it will also attract high level participation from development partners and transit countries to come at a high level.

Excellencies,

Once again, thank you all for contributing to this important meeting. I am looking forward to close collaboration in the remaining months before the Conference and beyond. I wish you all a safe trip back, especially those who have to travel further than New York City.

Thank you very much.