



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

317 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. Tel: (212) 832 2734; Fax: (212) 750 0039; www.un.int/lao

**Remarks by
H.E. Dr. Khiane PHANSOURIVONG
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic to the United Nations
At the Informal Stock-taking Meeting of the Economic and Social
Council on the Second UN Conference on Landlocked
Developing Countries
CR 4
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Excellency Ambassador Martin SAJDIK, President of ECOSOC,
Excellency Panelists,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this important panel discussion to stock take the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) held in November 2014 in Vienna, Austria.

Mr. President,

Location matters for the LLDCs as they are being constrained by landlockness, remoteness and distinct geographical disadvantage in the development process. For this reason, LLDCs have long been recognized by the United Nations as the most vulnerable group of countries in special situation that need help and support from the international community in their efforts to address their special development needs and challenges. Such recognition led to the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action (APOA) in 2004. The implementation of the APOA in the last 10 years has contributed to the development of LLDCs to some extent as the APOA focused only on infrastructure development and trade facilitation.

In the assessment of the implementation of the APOA, it is realized that the challenges being faced by LLDCs are not just transit transport and trade facilitation but they are multifaceted which include, among others, limited productive capacity. This calls for a holistic approach to address the special development needs and challenges of the LLDCs. Therefore, at the Second United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna in November 2014 adopted the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA) that consists of six priority areas: fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation which is quite comprehensive in nature.

Now the question that we need to ask ourselves is how to effectively implement the VPOA in order to achieve the objectives set out therein? Therefore, for the effective implementation of the VPOA, the following are suggested:

1. The activities of the VPOA should be included in the global processes such as the post-2015 development agenda;
2. While the development partners continue to provide official development assistance to LLDCs, it is also important that they help encourage the business to invest in LLDCs and provide favourable environment for LLDCs to export to, and import from, the transit countries and development partner countries;
3. Active participation in sub-regional and regional integration and cooperation by LLDCs is important as they can integrate their respective economies into that of the regional and global economies such as ASEAN Free Trade Area/ASEAN Economic Community and WTO;
4. The Conference for Development Financing in Addis Ababa should take into account the special needs of the resources of the LLDCs to support the implementation of the VPOA in next decade;
5. LLDCs themselves should incorporate activities into their respective national development plans; and
6. The transit countries, development partners, international organizations, relevant UN agencies, private sectors and other

relevant stakeholders' involvement is in the implementation of the VPOA is also important.

Mr. President,

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the transit countries, development partners, international organizations, UN agencies, private sector and other stakeholders for the continued commitments and support extended to LLDCs to overcome their special development needs and challenges as stated in the Vienna Declaration: **“we are strongly committed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of LLDCs arising from their landlockness, remoteness and geographical constraints”**.

Thank you.