

**As delivered**



**Statement**

**by**

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**Under-Secretary-General  
and High Representative  
for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States**

**at**

**Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the Follow-up and  
Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs**

**Room VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
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His Excellency, Mr. Juan Esteban Aguirre, Permanent Representative of Paraguay in Geneva and LLDC Group Coordinator on Trade and Development,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be here in Geneva. We have been given such a nice sunny weather. It is my pleasure to welcome you today to the first inter-agency meeting consultative group meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs.

To start with, let me appreciate your presence in this particular meeting. I would like to express appreciation to Ambassador Aguirre for making the time to be with us and participate in this opening session and Ambassador Kasese-Bota who will join us by video-link later this afternoon. Let me also welcome our colleagues that are joining us through the video-link. My special appreciation also goes to you all for the great importance that you and your organizations attach to the development concerns of the LLDCs and the contribution you made to the success of the Second UN Conference on LLDCs.

Many of you were with us in Vienna, but let me briefly describe the outcome of the LLDC Conference. The Conference had the following four objectives: First, to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the APoA; second, to review current and emerging challenges and identify effective policies, partnerships and opportunities in all our relevant work of the UN system. Third, to reaffirm global commitment to addressing the special development needs faced by LLDCs and finally, to formulate and adopt a

renewed development partnership framework in favour of LLDCs for the next decade.

The Conference was an important milestone for the LLDCs and the larger international community in terms of the level and the number of participants, substantive multi-stakeholder discussions as well as a forward looking outcome document. It was attended by more than 1000 participants, amongst them high-level officials from 129 UN Member States, including Heads of State and Governments, Ministers and other officials, UN system and other international organizations, including the Secretary-General himself, many Principles, as well as participants from private sector, academia and civil society.

The discussions conducted in the four high-level thematic roundtables, 18 side events and the Business and Investment Forum were very useful to delve deeper into the challenges that LLDCs face. We also shared best practices, experiences and collaborative approaches towards addressing LLDCs challenges and the many opportunities for turning landlocked into land linked countries. They were all looking at the issues with a solutions based approach.

The Conference came out with a successful and ambitious outcome document, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the decade 2014-2024. This new programme is a holistic development agenda with specific goals and time-bound results-oriented objectives that seek to achieve rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth along with poverty reduction and sustainable development for more than 450 million people. Drawing upon lessons learned, gaps and experiences and some positive results from the Millennium Development Goals, the Almaty Programme of Action and other global

development frameworks, the Vienna Programme reflects the desire of the global community to tackle challenges that LLDCs face and opportunities they hold, in a more comprehensive and coherent manner than before. That is the key to understand it.

I would like to commend Ambassador Kasese-Bota of Zambia and her team for the strong leadership that she provided in coordinating the LLDC group activities for the Conference and negotiating on behalf of G77 and China. Equally, the Ambassador of Paraguay in New York and his team as well as the team here effectively supported the LLDC Chair in the negotiations on the outcome document.

It was also the highly efficient steering of the intergovernmental consultations led by Ambassador Thoresson of Sweden and Ambassador Phansourivong of Lao PDR that led to a timely conclusion of the negotiations.

I would also like to commend the UN system organizations, and the other international and regional organizations for your extraordinary support to the Conference and its entire preparatory process, both substantively and logistically. The 18 pre-conference events organized by your institutions as part of the inter-agency track of the Conference provided the necessary background and recommendations for the LLDCs to take into the negotiations and formed the substantive basis of the outcome document.

I will not go here into more detail on the specifics of the Programme as that will be on the agenda later this morning. One point that I would like to emphasize, however, is that the Vienna Programme of Action was realized through broad-

based consultations and participatory preparatory process for the Conference involving LLDCs, transit developing countries, development partners, UN system organizations, international organizations and the private sector. And therefore, it is natural that its success also depends upon the multi-stakeholder approach and commitment to deliver.

I am fully confident that all stakeholders would equally remain engaged in the implementation and follow-up process. With a view to ensuring such an engagement in a coordinated manner, we have developed a comprehensive roadmap for the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, which we will discuss later today. This is the first meeting that we are having since the LLDC Conference and therefore it is very important that we set here today our programme of work for the next few years.

Let me re-iterate a few points here. It is the implementation of the Programme that is the most important and imminent task ahead of all of us. Second, the Vienna Programme of Action calls on organizations to mainstream it into their programmes of work. Third, it also calls on the UN system and relevant international organizations to support LLDCs in the implementation of the Programme through technical and capacity-building assistance. We hope to hear from you today the efforts by your organizations in these regards.

Finally, the Programme also calls upon my office to develop, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, relevant indicators for measuring progress in implementing this programme. As you know, my office has begun an exploratory exercise on how such indicators could be developed, and this will

also be the topic of our discussion this afternoon. There is a lot of expectations from Member States on developing the indicators.

I would like to inform all of you that the Government of Zambia, as the Chair of the Group of LLDCs, in collaboration with my office, is hosting a high-level meeting on the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in Zambia in June. We will have Ambassador Kasese-Bota from Zambia here with us later today to brief us on the meeting. The heads of all UN system and other international organizations have been invited to the meeting and I would like to urge you to work to ensure the highest possible participation from your organizations. I am sure that the Ambassador will also call upon high-level participation when she gives us a briefing on the preparations for the meeting.

While implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action is crucial, we must also ensure that the LLDCs agenda is integrated into other global processes, such as the post-2015 development agenda and financing for development dialogues, climate change discussions and multilateral trade negotiations. I am confident that the international community will capture the spirit and recognize the various elements of the Vienna Programme of Action in the final outcomes of these processes. I am also briefing the Member States on these issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that in this meeting we will be able to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Hear a briefing on the upcoming meeting on the follow-up to the LLDC Conference to be held in Livingstone, Zambia in June;

2. Consult on the roadmap for the way forward for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;
3. Consult on the proposed set of indicators for monitoring the progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;
4. Brief on the financing for development and post-2015 development agenda processes;
5. Identify recommendations for the way forward

I look forward to our continued co-operation in the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. I hope that our collaboration will continue to produce tangible development results for LLDCs as it has done so far. In this spirit, I look forward to a lively dialogue today on how we can ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action so that it truly delivers on its goals and objectives.

With these few words, I would like to invite Ambassador Juan Esteban Aguirre, Permanent Representative of Paraguay in Geneva and LLDC Group Coordinator on Trade and Development, to make his remarks.