High-Level Forum on Landlocked Developing Countries

28 September 2015

Message of the UN Deputy-Secretary General

Excellency Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Chair of Landlocked Developing Countries Group,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the UN Secretary General, it is a pleasure to address the High Level Forum of Heads of State and Government of Landlocked Developing Countries, here in New York, in the margins of the UN General Assembly. While we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we have also adopted new global goals for the sustainable development of humanity and of our planet for years to come, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is an historic decision on a comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal and transformative goals and targets that will hopefully change for the better the world, in particular the most vulnerable countries, among which landlocked developing countries.

This meeting is a milestone in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the decade 2014-2024 that you, representatives of landlocked developing countries, together with transit developing countries and development
partners, adopted in Vienna, in November 2014. Very ambitious, far-reaching and results-oriented, the Vienna Programme of Action aims to address special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries for the decade 2014-2024. The world commended this achievement.

It’s now time for its implementation.

This programme is indeed an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it seeks to achieve structural transformation and sustainable economic growth and development of more than 450 million people.

United Nations is fully committed to work tirelessly with partners to ensure people living in landlocked developing countries benefit from the shared global prosperity and achieve goals set for in the Vienna programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development.

In December, in Paris, governments will reach a universal and meaningful climate change agreement. Also, world trade ministers will gather in Nairobi to discuss trade issues. We have to ensure that landlocked developing countries` issues are not left behind of those agendas.

I am aware of the special challenges facing vulnerable countries, including landlocked developing countries, but they are surmountable. But without resources, commitments will amount to little more than promises on paper.

That is why we need resources to support those programmes, we need capacity to undertake policies, we need good governance, and we need to foster partnerships.

Solutions lie in partnerships. Private-Public cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation, international cooperation, market access and trade support.
Through these mechanisms, landlocked developing countries will be able to build and maintain transport infrastructure, facilitate intra-regional and international trade, and better integrate global markets.

I am encouraged by commitments made by the international community in Addis Ababa, last July, to increase support to the most vulnerable countries, focusing on concessional resources.

Let us promote required partnerships. Together we will achieve our common goal.

Thank you