Statement

By

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On Agenda Item23:
Groups of Countries in Special Situations: (a and b) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and Follow-up to the second UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;

At
The Second Committee on the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

29, October, 2015
New York
Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with statements delivered on behalf of G77 and China, Africa and LLDCs.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his Reports on this agenda item. Geographical remoteness from major international markets, high transport and trade transaction costs remain among major challenges of LLDCs. Despite these challenges, my delegation recognizes the progress made over the last decade under the Almaty Program of Action. It is imperative that we build upon the results and intensify our endeavors towards the full implementation of the VPoA. In this regard, my delegation concurs with the Report that it is only through strong means of implementation with revitalized partnership among the landlocked, the transit countries, development partners and the private sector that we could address the multifaceted development bottlenecks LLDCs face.

My delegation welcomes the emphasis of the Report on the importance of achieving structural transformation by implementing an inclusive and sustainable industrialization program. Expanding infrastructural projects enhances competitiveness and connectivity of LLDCs. Ethiopia also concurs with the Report that simplification and harmonization of custom regulations and continued increase in Aid for Trade are important measures to enhance the trading capacity of LLDCs, and to promote export through diversification and value addition. Moreover, ensuring the right of access and the freedom of transit is a cornerstone to further integrate LLDCs into the global value chain.
Mr. President,

As a landlocked country, Ethiopia continues to invest on trade logistics-related programs with the objective of accelerating trade facilitation and enhancing its competitiveness and connectivity. We underscore that the rapid movement of goods and services is key to accelerate our structural transformation process. To improve the logistics sector, we have started to implement a National Logistic Strategy with the support of the UN entities. The Strategy also enhances our performance and contributes to the implementation of the Second Growth and Transformation Plan which aims, among others, to boost export. The Strategy aims to improve the multimodal logistics operating system. To ensure its effective implementation; we have established a high-level National Logistics Council led by our Deputy Prime Minister. The private sector has a pivotal role in the execution of the Strategy.

Mr. President,

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for the implementation of the VPoA to harness the full benefits of international trade by, inter alia, developing efficient transport and transit systems. Hence, the Program of Action should be fully implemented to establish a secure, reliable and efficient transit transport system. Furthermore, the Program should be fully mainstreamed by the whole UN system and our development partners. The international community should also enhance its ODA to LLDCs, incentivize the flow of foreign direct investment and reduce the cost of transfer of remittance. Furthermore, partnership between landlocked countries and transit countries should be further strengthened in infrastructure connectivity, customs and logistic system. It is also important to revitalize all
forms of global partnership—north–south, south–south and triangular—to turn LLDCs into land-linked countries.

Mr. President,

LDCs could meet multiple development needs by sustaining inclusive economic growth and by bringing structural transformation and economic diversification. In order to eradicate poverty, enhance productivity, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation the implementation of IPOA should be further strengthened.

This requires concrete and substantial international support in a spirit of renewed and strengthened global partnership. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for enhanced global support for LDCs, as the group is the most vulnerable group facing structural challenges for the achievement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you.