Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mwaba P. Kasese Bota, LLDC Group Chair At the Consultative Meeting of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) Group on "The Implications of the New Global Development Agenda on the LLDCs and the Way Forward"

Opening session

1 March 2016

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to start by thanking all the LLDCs, friends of LLDCs and cooperating and Development Partners for uniting in the common cause and principle of ensuring No one is Left Behind, and hence supporting the development aspirations of the landlocked group of countries.

2014 and 2015 defined a paradigm shift of transformative and ambitious development framework starting with the Second UN Conference on LLDCs which acknowledged the various challenges faced by LLDCs collectively, through a comprehensive outcome document, which outlined the 6 priority areas of the Vienna Program of Action.
In June 2015, we gathered for the High-Level Follow-up Meeting to the LLDC Conference in Livingstone, Zambia and adopted the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA which highlighted the key actions required to ensure the speedy implementation of the Vienna Programme.

The global development processes of 2015, that is the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development further catalysed the recognition and implementation of the VPOA.

Both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognize the special challenges and needs of LLDCs and support the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The Vienna Program of Action is recognised as integral to the 2030 agenda. The LLDC cannot attain the SDGs without realising the priority goals of the VPoA. Therefore the attainment of the SDG is directly and inherently linked to the capacity and level of implementation of the VPoA.

Implementation of the more elaborative and comprehensive Vienna Programme of Action with 6 priority areas requires enhanced capacity and necessary tools to implement the ambitious programme.
The successful implementation of the VPoA will not only require renewed and strengthened partnerships between LLDCs, transit countries and development partners, but also enhanced support and partnership efforts with relevant international and regional organizations, private and public sectors and stronger and widened North-South and South-South cooperation.

The LLDCs also participated in the Paris Climate Change Conference and the Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, as well as the WTO Ministerial conference in Nairobi in December last in Nairobi.

The United Nations community is now discussing follow up and review mechanisms within the context of 2030 agenda and associate processes. Indeed we should be part of the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the Paris Agreement.

We have built synergies and convergences between the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and the other global development processes. We as member states are mainstreaming the various development processes into our national development programs.
We have the statistical commission meeting this week to finalise the indicators. We are hopeful that the indicators will reflect the interconnectedness, and synergies of various development frameworks including the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

This meeting therefore presents an opportunity for us to dialogue on the follow-up processes on the important agendas that were adopted last year, and identify specific follow-up activities that the LLDCs could focus on that would foster coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Vienna Programme. I also look to hear from partners initiatives that have been undertaken to respond to the 2030 Agenda as well as were we are with commitments of the VPoA.

I very much look forward to our discussions today.