Austria, being a landlocked country, understands well the special needs of the LLDCs, as it has faced similar challenges.

As the example of Austria shows, being landlocked and underdeveloped is not an inescapable faith.

Austria is ready to share its experiences and know-how. Therefore, the Government of Austria hosted the Second United Nations Conference on LLDCs in Vienna in November 2014.

Thanks to the leadership of Zambia and thanks to your commitment, Mr. Under-Secretary-General, the LLDC conference was a success. The conference led to a meaningful outcome document which, I am proud to say, is called the Vienna Programme of Action.

The Vienna Programme of Action is based on the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action, but goes far beyond its scope: it is a major step forward, given its holistic approach, particularly its focus on regional integration and structural transformation.

Furthermore, the Vienna Programme of Action is a recognized part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We now have to move on to implementing the commitments that we have undertaken. Austria will do its part in this endeavour.

1. Several LLDCs have the status of priority countries for the Austrian Development Cooperation as set out in its new programme for 2016 to 2018.

2. Together with UN OHRLLS, SE4All, UNIDO we are currently organizing a meeting in Vienna, in order to bring together senior officials from LLDCs, transit developing countries and development partners, including the private sector. The aim of the meeting, scheduled to take place in October, will be to increase awareness of the Vienna Programme of Action and its implementation as well as to enhance knowledge and technical capacity of the LLDCs on how to expand and upgrade infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas.

3. Last but not least: We stand ready to serve as Co-Chair of the “Friends of the LLDC-Group”. We hope that through this group the positive momentum
generated by the Vienna Conference and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda can be used to push ahead the cause of the LLDCs.

- In concluding let me reassure you that Austria is firmly committed to continue its advocacy for the cause of the LLDCs and to continue its practical assistance in the framework of its development cooperation.