Closing remarks by
H.E. Mr. Raymond Mpundu, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of the Republic of Zambia and Global Chair of the LLDC Group

Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Trade of LLDCs
WTO, Geneva, Switzerland

Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the meeting. It gives me great pleasure that we were able to come together for this Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Trade of LLDCs. In my capacity as the Global Chair of the LLDC Group, I would like to thank you all for coming and actively participating over the past two days. My deep appreciation goes to all of you for your contributions to the success of this meeting.

We have discussed how we can improve the participation of our countries in the global trade. We have heard from distinguished panelists and we have shared amongst ourselves the ways in which landlocked developing countries can best utilize the recent global development commitments, to enhance our trade potential and overcome the structural and geographical challenges.

We now need to ensure that we all deliver on what we have promised. We can only do this through collective efforts. I know that we can count on our development partners, the United Nations organizations and other regional and international organizations, and the private sector, to support the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.
We have adopted an ambitious Ministerial Communique that will guide our way forward. I hope that all LLDCs that have not yet done will urgently ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. As a Group, we hope to see, by the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference, a specific WTO Work Programme for the LLDCs.

For our countries, enhancing trade is one of the key priorities to unlock the development potential of our economies. As agreed in the Vienna Programme of Action, greater integration into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing our competitiveness and ensuring that our countries attain sustained economic development.

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank all of you again for your engagement and I wish you a safe journey back home.

I look forward to the next high-level meetings of the Landlocked Developing Countries Group which will be in New York in September during the General Assembly for the annual meeting of Foreign Ministers and in Bolivia for the Meeting of Transport Ministers.

Thank you