Statement of Mohammadullah Batash minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Afghanistan

Dear Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

Good Day

It gives me great pleasure to participate in the meeting on sustainable transport of landlocked developing countries and I would like to thank the department of Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United national and the Government of Plurinational state of Bolivia for Organizing Such Excellent Facility for our Dialogue.

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a landlocked country located within South Asia and Central Asia. It has a population of approximately 32 million, making it the 42nd most populous country in the world. It is bordered by Pakistan in the south and east; Iran in the west; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan in the north; and China in the far northeast. Its territory covers 652,000 km² (252,000 sq mi), making it the 41st largest country in the world.

From Past 16 years with the support of International community (United Nation, JICA, SAARC, ECO, EU, USA etc.) we have gained lots of achievements, in terms of Economic growth, Infrastructure, specially transport infrastructure we were able to build thousands of kilometers of roads, Airports, Railways tracks.

Recently a railway track is build within the Afghanistan and Uzbekistan will connect Afghanistan to Russia and China, and we are expecting railway track to be build in between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

During the past year Afghanistan got membership of different international and regional Organization which helped us to have better transit among the regional countries.

The Main problem of Afghanistan as being landlocked country is the Access to the sea lane and it is vital for Afghanistan as per the convention of Law of sea (UNCLOS) every country has the right to have Access but unfortunately Afghanistan still dont have access to the sea.

Some of neighboring countries of Afghanistan dont Obey the UNCLOS Convention and is not ready to have Access to the sea.

Right now the main mode of Transportation of Afghanistan is Motor Vehicle and Air transport which increase the cost of trade and have negative impact on the export and import rates.

Therefore we kindly request from the respected department of United nation to support us on the following issues:

1. Supporting Afghanistan to have Access to the sea lane and applying the UNCLOS convention on countries which dont Obey.
2. Building Transport Infrastructures like: Terminals and roads which are not standardized
4. Building Dry ports and Free Economic Zones

Thank you