STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON SIMBARASHE MUMBENGEWII, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AT THE LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES’ MEETING: NEW YORK: 2016

His Excellency Mr Munkh Orgil Tsend, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mongolia and Vice Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries;

Ms Helen Clark, Under-Secretary-General, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP

Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary-General

Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

Honourable Ministers

Delegates

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the neighbourly Republic of Zambia for its re-election to lead our group for the next two years. We sincerely commend the Republic of Zambia for its able leadership of our Group as well as its steadfast commitment to the cause of our Group. The theme you chose for our deliberations “Harnessing Coherence in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action” is most appropriate as coherence, which is an important element of effective development cooperation, remains a major missing link in the success of various international development programmes.

Mr Chairman

In November 2014, the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014-2024 which is a comprehensive plan of action to address the special challenges and development needs of landlocked developing countries. This was followed by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development last September. Harnessing coherence in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action is essential in overcoming the development challenges facing landlocked developing countries. There must be greater collaboration across a great range of policy areas among relevant stakeholders.

Mr Chairman

Zimbabwe welcomes the recognition by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the special needs of landlocked developing countries and emphasizes the importance of fostering coordination, coherence and strong synergies in their implementation.
Mr Chairman

The successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action hinges on strengthened global partnerships and cooperation. However, it is imperative that these global partnerships should take into account the vulnerabilities and special development needs and challenges facing landlocked developing countries.

Mr Chairman,

The stalled Doha Development round of trade negotiations continue to impede the effective integration and participation of landlocked developing countries into the multilateral trading system hereby undermining their trade and economic growth potentials. Zimbabwe strongly urges our group to continue pushing for the speedy conclusion of the Doha Development round of trade negotiations.

Given the fact that the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is of paramount importance to our members, there should be urgency in its ratification and implementation.

In conclusion,
Zimbabwe reiterates its firm belief that harnessing coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action can go a long way in addressing the special challenges and development needs of landlocked developing countries.

Mr Chairman,

I thank you!