Remarks

for

H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya

Under-Secretary-General
and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,
Landlocked Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States

At the Thematic session of the Global Sustainable Transport Conference entitled: Sustainable transport and transit solutions in countries in special situations

Sunday, 27 November, 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
1. H.E. Mr. Brian Mushimba, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Zambia and Global Chair of the LLDC Group
2. H.E. Mr. Milton Claros Hinojosa, Minister of Public Works and Housing Services, Bolivia
3. Mr. Souleymane Soulama, Minister of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety, Burkina Faso
4. Mr. Seiuli Ueligitone, Associate Minister for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Samoa
5. Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, World Bank
6. Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Technical Advisor (Transport), Asian Development Bank

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to welcome you to this Thematic session on sustainable transport and transit solutions in countries in special situations. Let me first of all thank you all for joining us in this particular event. We have a panel of distinguished speakers with us today. I would like to make a few remarks to begin our discussion.

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are those countries that have a low level of income and human development as well as a high degree of vulnerability. There are 48 LDCs around the world. Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are particularly characterized by having no direct access to the sea. There are 32 LLDCs around the world. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are remote islands with huge connectivity related challenges. Because they are called small islands, they are small in size in terms of both the resources and the population.
Together we call the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, - countries in special situations - because they have particular development challenges arising from particular situations and characteristics. There are altogether a total of about 1.1 billion people who live in these countries. Therefore when we look at the global programs, global solutions as well as the global development frameworks, we have to pay special attention to these countries, if we want to really leave no one behind and make sustainable transport inclusive of all. That is specifically the purpose of this session.

Looking at the global transportation situation there are about 1.2 billion vehicles around the world but there are also 1 billion people who do not have consistent and constant connectivity with the road. This is a huge disparity in terms of the transportation situation. We also have other challenges including: the urban-rural disparity, the gender divide, as well as the road related deaths and pollution that is generated from the transport. Countries in special situations and other developing countries have a disproportionate share of these challenges. For example, 92% of road deaths happen in the developing countries as a whole.

All of them show that we have particular challenges and expectations from this transport conference. We have a very high level of panelists here and we have provided them with some questions.

I would like to highlight some of the questions:

What are the key achievements in terms of the development of sustainable transport in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and what are the major challenges? Can the regional infrastructure corridors be strengthened in these countries? What about the regional linkages?
What are the government policies, reforms and initiatives that have really worked in these countries? How can we best integrate that in the national development plans strategically in a way that we can promote multimodal transport?

How do we look at the financing aspect of sustainable transport? How can we really ensure that we mobilize all resources - domestic, private sector, ODA, financial institutions and others? What kind of partnerships have proved to be successful in terms of your experiences in the area of promoting sustainable transport?

These are some of the issues that we would like to get a perspective from our distinguished panelists.

I thank you for your kind attention.