

**Statement by Mr. Jin Liqun**

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**At the High-Level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Cooperation  
on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

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I am honoured to be sharing the stage with such a dignified group.

We have entered a time of unprecedented change in the world. It is a time when countries are looking to the world stage and reexamining the role they want to play in its future. Faced with such a situation, we must then ask ourselves, if globalization defined the 20th Century, what will define the 21st?

This question is most relevant to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which was formed against such a socio-economic backdrop.

AIIB was created to foster sustainable economic growth and development, as well as promote regional connectivity and cooperation, through investment in infrastructure and other productive sectors.

One year into operation, we have made important progress in varying respects, and have approved a lending program of \$1.73bn. But now, more than ever, is it important for us to strengthen our narrative and sharpen our focus on what it means to be a multilateral development bank in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

From where I stand, I believe internationalism and AIIB have an important role to play in teaming up with sovereign governments, international organizations and the private sector to address the infrastructure challenges of Land Locked Developing Countries.

As a multilateral development bank, part of our job is to help developing countries pick projects that will improve social and economic outcomes without following the beaten track that leads to environmental degradation and global warming. Issues we are grappling with today.

Albert Einstein once said, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

To that end, we must leverage the collective experiences of our MDB partners and member countries to support innovative infrastructure projects that are financially viable, environmentally friendly and accepted by the local communities.

AIIB will act as a facilitator in this capacity. Innovations in projects from one country can then be leveraged in another, with a particular focus on transit and energy to help LLDCs improve trade and economic outcomes.

LLDC countries can also access AIIB's Special Fund that will provide grants to support and facilitate the preparation of projects to be financed by the bank in eligible member countries. It will mainly benefit the preparation of sovereign backed projects undertaken by national or local governments. In exceptional circumstances, Fund resources may also be used for preparing innovative, complex, or cross-border projects that have significant regional impact.

This is a tangible example of how AIIB will support eligible Land Locked Developing Countries improve access to transit and trade for their citizens.

But at the end of the day, we must remind ourselves what these large, infrastructure projects mean to everyday people.

Whether you are a small business, government, farmer or city worker, being connected to the people, world and infrastructure that surrounds you has never been more important.

All of this connectivity is reliant on having sustainable and reliable infrastructure, and at its core, that is what the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is about. We are helping to connect Asia by investing in the roads, railways, water supply, wastewater treatment, sustainable cities and low carbon energy sources it needs.

And just as importantly, we are building connections which will not only benefit the communities in which they are located, but will have far-reaching, positive impacts on markets and trade across the region.

Thank you.