Enhancing the role of the private sector in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

May 23, 2017

Thank you Madame Chair,

1. In Paraguay, we’re supporting public private partnerships because we consider the private sector one of the main partners in our development. We believe that fostering necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement and attract foreign direct investment is a necessary step towards sustainable development.

2. Paraguay’s economy is expected to grow 4.2% this year, up from a previous forecast of 3.5%, and we consider the involvement of private sector one the pillars of Paraguay economic growth.

3. I would like to share with you some of the progress my country is having with the private sector in this endeavor. In the year 2013 Paraguay enacted Law No. 5.102 “Investment promotion in public infrastructure, expansion and improvement of goods and services provided by the State”. This Law seeks to establish mechanisms to promote public private partnership to develop infrastructure.

4. In addition, Paraguay welcomes the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement early this year. The TFA provides a unique opportunity to promote inclusive growth by making cross-border trade easier, quicker and less costly for businesses of all sizes.

5. The agreement affirms the need to better leverage private sector expertise in implementing the TFA; this calls for a new approach to development cooperation and, specially, a new
framework for public-private cooperation to help deliver commercially meaningful trade facilitation reforms.

6. For that reason, we will look to identify the best way to learn from the private sector and work closely with them to effectively implement the TFA.

7. Furthermore, we’ve recently established a National Trade Facilitation Committee, in line with the TFA and the Vpoa, this major step shows our commitment on the implementation of the agreement, and we look forward to work with the private sector to design the best policies on trade facilitation.

8. Finally, Paraguay believes that the private sector is a key partner in developing infrastructure, building capacity, technology innovation, diffusion of productive know how and the opening of new markets. For that reason, we encourage the convening of this meeting during the FFD Forum, because we need to enhance the dialogue with the private sector to implement successfully the Vpoa and the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.