

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**By Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs**

**Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade and Transport**

17 May; Astana, Kazakhstan

Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure that we, the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries were able to come together for this meeting of Ministers of LLDCs on Trade and Transport.

In my capacity as the Global Chair of the LLDC Group, I would like to thank you all for coming and actively participating over the past two days.

My deep appreciation goes to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting us in this beautiful of Astana and for all the generous provisions for making our stay very enjoyable here.

I would also like to thank UN-OHRLLS for co-organizing this meeting and their continued support to the Group of LLDCs.

We have had thoughtful and intensive discussions on the ways in which our countries can better integrate into the global trading and economic system through enhanced transport connectivity, better trade facilitation and structural transformation of our economies.

The fact that our Ministers and senior officials responsible for trade, transport and economy all came together at this meeting clearly highlights how these issues are inter-connected and need to be tackled together in a coherent way.

We have adopted a comprehensive Ministerial declaration that will guide our way forward. Let's now go back to our capitals and focus on delivering what we have promised here.

I am sure that we can also count on our development partners, the United Nations systems and other international organizations, to assist us in these efforts, which will ultimately support the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Honourable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you all again for your participation.

I look forward to your active engagement and participation in the next Ministerial Meetings of the LLDC Group and in the preparatory process of the high-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Thank you.