

Statement Made

By

H.E. Ambassador Gebeyehu Ganga Gayito, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations at the Inaugural Intergovernmental Meeting of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

Ulaabaatar, Mongolia
June 11, 2018

Mr. Chair,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellency's

At the outset, let me express the regret of my delegation that due to another engagement, my Minister could not attend this important event.

Allow me also to express my profound appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for hosting the Inaugural meeting of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries as well as for its warm hospitality.

Ethiopia highly commends the able leadership of Mongolia to realize the common vision of LLDCs to establish an international think tank. I am sure you would agree with me that the political commitment, continued follow-up and support of Mongolia have been critical to the operationalization of the Think Tank.

Mr. Chair,

As the Ulaanbaatar Declaration that we are going to adopt at this Conference states, we-LLDCs- continue to face multiple development challenges due to our geographical locations and other structural obstacles. While we continue to take important policy measures to promote structural transformation, diversify our economies and increase our exports, special trade and development challenges arising from our lack of direct access to the sea impair our endeavors.

As a result, we continue to face additional hurdles to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Program of Action. Hence, it is imperative that we need to build high quality research capacity to formulate practical policy solutions that could contribute to implement the Vienna

Program of Action, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other internationally agreed development frameworks that are relevant to our national contexts. In this regard, the establishment of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries is an important step in building a collective analytical capacity to find solutions for our development challenges.

Ethiopia welcomes its inauguration with the strong belief that the Think Tank would support all of us not only in finding appropriate solutions but also it would contribute in formulating a common position that we all should promote to amplify our united voice in multilateral forums. Moreover, it would also further enhance the exchange of lessons and best practices among LLDCs as we all continue to implement SDGs according to our national development plans. In this regard, we hope that the Think Tank would start forging partnership with national research institutions as well as with UN agencies, such as UNOHRRLLS and UNCTAD that work with LLDCs. Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment and the readiness of Ethiopia to strengthen our partnership with the Think Tank.

While it is our primary responsibility to ensure the full operationalization of the Think Tank, we also take this opportunity to call upon our development partners to support its activities.

Allow me, Mr. Chair, to conclude by reiterating our appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for its generous financial support and for hosting this successful Inaugural Conference. We hope the Think Tank would be another important vehicle to further strengthen collaboration among LLDCs and its partners.

I thank you.