

Nepal's intervention in Session 2: Future Collaboration within the framework of the ITT for LLDCS

Thank you, Mr. Executive Director!

First of all, with the permission of the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, I would like to commend Excellencies and distinguished presenters of this important session for their insights and ideas.

Nepal attaches high importance to ITT. We share our views with other here today that we all should join our hands in making ITT a credible and respected international organization. Yes, Mr. Moderator, there are certain expectations from this first intergovernmental body of LLDCs. Beginning is specially important, and we have full confidence on you, Mr. Executive Director, to focus on certain areas that are particularly important for LLDCs.

The overall goal of the International Think Tank is to use top-quality research and advocacy to improve the ability of landlocked developing countries to build trade capacity in order to benefit from international trade.

In addition to trade, we have issues like infrastructure development and maintenance. That includes cross-border quality infrastructure, such as, road, rail and waterways; and associated investment and trade facilitation.

Nepal has now focused on infrastructure development which includes, energy, roads, rail, waterways, airways etc. In the context of country specific studies, the draft case study prepared by ITT entitled, ***“The Economic Diversification of LLDCs: Case Study of Bhutan, Nepal, Mongolia and Paraguay”*** contains many good ideas. We are still considering the draft for our inputs to make it more useful in our changed context.

As rightly highlighted by the distinguished presenters of this session, there is, in fact, a huge prospect of study and research. There are many areas useful for LLDCs. Some like trade and infrastructure issues are more useful for LLDCs to start with. Given the limited resources and capacity of ITT, we should prioritize and begin from something that is more useful now, starting from the priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Thank you.