



UN-OHRLLS

Talking Points for

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**For Session 2 Future collaboration within the framework of the ITT for
LLDCs**

at the Inaugural Meeting of the International Think Tank for LLDCs

June 11-12, 2018

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates and participants,

First of all let me congratulate LLDCs for the milestone achievement that formally inaugurates the International Think Tank. It is very important event for our office too as we have been closely involved in the process from the beginning including drafting the intergovernmental agreement and its negotiations.

Let me extend my sincere congratulations, Mr. Odbayar, for your appointment as the Executive Director of the think tank. It is very well deserved appointment because of your valuable contribution and hard work for the formal operationalisation of the Think Tank.

The importance of the international think tank goes beyond its title. It is not only research centre for LLDCs, but most importantly it is the first ever intergovernmental body of LLDCs. The expectations are high. Let me share a few preliminary thoughts on the way forward.

International think tank as the intergovernmental organisation should actively be engaged with the relevant UN intergovernmental bodies, including GA, ECOSOC, HLPF, UNCTAD TDB and other organisations. These intergovernmental bodies have very important role to play for the follow up and review of landmark intergovernmental agreements the 2030 Development agenda, VPOA, climate change agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing for development. The ITT should obtain membership or observer status from these and other intergovernmental bodies. ITT should also harmonize theme of its research and policy analysis with the international development agenda and work of these bodies. So that LLDCs use its research and assessment as reference points for their negotiations. WTO negotiations should be also at the centre of attention of the think tank.

New York and Geneva very important headquarters where the Group of LLDCs is active. I know the ITT is active there. Such cooperation needs to be further strengthened.

Cooperation with the UN system and other international organisations is key for the success for the ITT. As Secretary-General mentioned in his message the UN system will work closely with the International Think Tank. I know, UNDP has been very supportive. The OHRLLS will be able to assist the ITT in this regard UN as per our overall mandate.

The Vienna Programme action should be at the centre of attention of the ITT. The Vienna Programme is the UN General Assembly adopted agenda to address

special needs of LLDCs. Our office, UN-OHRLLS has the mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs to address the special needs of the LLDCs and works to foster coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, the knowledge generated by the International Think Tank will help inform the formulation and monitoring of policies aimed at accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action.

I am sure ITT will make efforts for resources mobilization. To have adequate funding is the necessary prerequisite for the ITT to effectively carry out its Mandate.

UN-OHRLLS had been collaborating well with the Think Tank for example on joint study and workshop on the implications of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation for LLDCs; National workshops on mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action; and advocacy events at the UN headquarters in NY and during the regional commission session in Bangkok etc to disseminate and consult on the work of the Think Tank.

We will continue these efforts.

- In particular, the UN-OHRLLS stands ready to undertake joint studies and jointly organize events at the national, regional and global levels. We can these events in the context of the preparation for the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action, for example.
- Our Office works very closely with UN system and international organisations in some very specific areas. For example, we work with WTO, UNCTAD, WCO and other partners on enhancing efficiency at border crossing. We can also involve the Think Tank on this issue.
- We can also provide assistance ITT with substantive documents and materials.