Statement by LLDC Chair At the

Accelerating the energy transition in LLDCs

A Side Event During 2018 HLPF

12 July 2018; 13:15 – 14:30

Conference Room B, UN Conference Building

Under Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates and participants:

At the outset, let me convey the greetings from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay, Ambassador Julio César Arriola, who is out of the country.

As you all probably know, Paraguay is the current Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing countries.

We are here representing 32 landlocked developing countries situated in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America that face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets.

Our special needs and challenges have being receiving increased visibility and recognition at the international level.

Thanks to that we have a Program of Action – the Vienna Program of Action – which establishes as one of the Priorities the development and maintenance of energy infrastructure – a critical issue to facilitate access to sustainable energy.

Goal 7 of the Agenda 2030 also recognizes the importance of sustainable energy and refers specifically to LLDCs countries

Adequate supply of sustainable energy is needed to modernize our information and communications technologies and transit systems that are key for reducing delays at borders.
Sustainable energy is fundamental for improving productive capacities and will contribute to the industrialization and structural economic transformation of our countries which will lead to harnessing benefits from international trade.

Not only adequate supply of sustainable energy can help turn our countries into land-linked countries, but also it will contribute to achieve inclusive economic growth. That we all know means sharing prosperity for all.

Even though our countries hold great potential for the production of renewable energy from sources such as hydropower, geothermal, wind, and solar, the LLDCs face an energy gap.

Many progresses have been made, but we need to do more.

In that sense, international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries is critical.

We need resources and enhanced technical and capacity-building assistance to either create or improve our energy infrastructure. The role of the private sector, development banks, development finance institutions and, of course, our development partners is of the utmost importance in this endeavor.

To finalize, I want to share with you our national experience in producing renewable energy. Paraguay has two major hydroelectric dams together with Brazil and Argentina, Itaipu and Yacyreta respectively. Those two are not only an infrastructure that produces energy, but also an example of how to jointly administer natural resources with transit countries.

As Chair of the Landlocked Developing Countries, Paraguay remains committed to contribute to finding solutions to the challenges faced by our group, including in the energy sector.

I thank you.