Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to align with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and the distinguished representative of Paraguay on behalf of the Group of the LLDCs. My statement will be limited to agenda item 23 (b). To take this moment, I would like to welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 (VPoA) contained in document A/73/297.

Mr. Chairman,

The LLDCs are confronted with special challenges and have a high dependence on primary commodities, weak productive capacities and highly vulnerable to external factors. These are also affecting their social development.

The LLDCs need more attention and more support from the international community to generate increased economic growth and improve the well-being of population, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international frameworks including the Vienna Program of Action.

The year of 2019 is important for LLDCs to review the progress on the implementation of the VPoA that has been achieved so far, share best practices and experiences, identify obstacles and propose new ideas and initiatives to overcome those challenges. My country attaches high importance to the preparations of the comprehensive high-level mid-term review of the Vienna Program of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me brief touch upon latest activities that my country is taking towards the implementation of the VPoA.

Mongolia witnessed the economic resurge with the accelerated foreign trade turnover, robust expansion investment and budget surplus during the last two years. We have implemented the Extended Fund Facility with the IMF. As a result, Mongolian economic growth, which was 1.2 percent in 2016, has reached 6.3 percent in the first half of 2018. It is projected to further increase to 8 percent in 2019.
In order to further improve market access and provide more favorable investment environment, Mongolia signed the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan in 2016 and has concluded the joint feasibility study on signing similar agreement with the Republic of Korea. We are also studying the feasibility to sign Free Trade Agreement with Eurasian Economic Union.

Moreover, in the recent two years, Mongolia concluded several promising agreements with the neighboring countries such as “Intergovernmental Agreement between the Governments of Mongolia and Russia on terms for rail freight transit transportation,” “The Agreement on access to and from the sea and transit transport through China’s territory by Mongolia,” “Intergovernmental cooperation Agreement between Mongolia and China on Railway Transit Transportation.” These agreements provide broader possibilities to enhance the regional cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

My country is keen to participate in the regional processes and initiatives. Mongolia has supported the development of the Belt and Road Initiative and agreed to establish the Mongolia-Russia-China Trilateral Economic Corridor as implementing joint projects to increase trade turnover, ensure competitiveness, facilitate cross-border transportation and develop infrastructure. We have recently come up with a travel facilitation initiative with a view to creating an enabling environment for the increased trade, investment, connectivity and economic cooperation. It covers countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. Also, the Government of Mongolia has recently established the Regional Logistics Centre on Dornogovi Province. The Regional Logistics Centre will facilitate our participation in the regional economy and also make contribution to the development of the Trilateral Economic Corridor.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation takes note of the important role of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, initiated by Mongolia. The International Think Tank for LLDCs successfully transformed from the organization with interim management scheme into full-fledged intergovernmental organization in 2018.

We are convinced that the International Think Tank will play an essential role to enhance the analytical capabilities of LLDCs and become effective instrument to support those countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the VPoA as well as strengthen the LLDCs’ collective voice at global level.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to urge the LLDCs that have not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, to do so at its earliest convenience, and also to call upon the member states to support the draft resolution on “Observer Status for the International Think Tank for LLDCs in the General Assembly” in order to effective and full functioning of the International Think Tank for LLDCs.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we look forward to close cooperation with development partners and stakeholders to ensure that LLDCs are not left behind.

I thank you.