Points for intervention by the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov at the Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) (28 September 2016, CR 5)

Theme: Revitalizing partnership to enhance the implementation of the VPOA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Distinguished Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Under-Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to commend the delegation of Paraguay for their excellent job in advancing the Group’s interest and reiterate my delegations support in the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This year under the wise leadership of the Chair and High Representative the Group made enormous efforts to reaffirm the needs of the landlocked countries in the vital processes and
meetings such as Forum on Financing and Development, Repositioning of the United Nations Development System, High Level Political Forum 2018 and the interests of our Group were well defended.

Excellencies,

We, Landlocked Developing Countries by virtue of our geographical position/location face many challenges. Despite progress in some areas, our countries still falling behind some developing countries.

Without direct access to seaports, long distance from international markets, inadequate transport infrastructure, high cost of trade and etc it would be difficult for the LLDCs to implement the priorities of the Vienna Program of Action (VPoA) for the Landlocked Developing Countries which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Development.

Tajikistan is committed to the decisions and recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action and has undertaken additional measures, in line with the priorities of VPOA, to develop its national transport and transit infrastructures and communications.
A particular importance is attached to the improvement of transport and energy infrastructures, promoting and expanding sub-regional and regional trade. Efforts have been intensified to introduce the system entitled “Single window” that facilitates the simplification of customs rules and regulations. Currently, Tajikistan has four active free economic zones, two of which are located in its border with Afghanistan thus enhancing regional integration, trade and cooperation.

Improvement of bilateral relations between Central Asian countries, recently, gave an opportunity for furtherance of integration and cooperation in the region which led to increase in the volume of trade and overall economic growth.

We consider transport and energy sectors as one of the priority areas for us.

Integrated development of hydro-energy and other types of renewable energy, allows not only to increase capacities, but also promotes ensuring sustainability and increase in energy efficiency, considerable reduction of detrimental emissions, the major issue
in addressing climate change. Tajikistan has been developing its energy potential in a consistent and planned manner based on an integrated development of renewable sources.

The construction of an energy bridge between Central Asia and South Asia (CASA-1000), aimed at promoting export of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to the energy markets of Afghanistan and Pakistan is underway.

No doubt that the establishment of this energy-bridge between Central Asia and South Asia will increase the wellbeing of populations and energy security, and will lead to an increase in industrial production and trade in both regions.

Dear colleagues,

Another area where Tajikistan has a vested interest is water. It is the most valuable resource without which all our efforts to bring about development, peace and prosperity to the world will be wasted and no earthly use.

Water issues are particularly dominant in the most vulnerable countries, including the LLDCs. Only a third of the population of
LLDCs is using safely managed drinking water services. In rural areas in particular, access to safe drinking water is very low. LLDCs are the most water stressed countries. Many LLDCs are located in dry regions where hyper-arid, semi-arid and arid conditions prevail. Water challenges are exacerbated by the effects of climate change prevalent in the LLDCs, such as desertification, drought and land degradation, as well as water-related natural hazards. We need more serious collective actions to address these challenges.

2018 was an important year for water community across the globe.

Number of important milestone events took place in Brazil, New York and Dushanbe which had an impact and made a significant contribution to the overall advancement of SDG 6 and other water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda. For example, June 20-22 2018 joint the United Nation and Tajikistan High-Level International Conference on the Water Decade in Dushanbe.
The Conference provided a timely and necessary platform for elaborating specific recommendations on acceleration and strengthening efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals and targets on water resources. I would like to thank the delegation of Paraguay for representing the LLDCs in the Conference and contributing to the overall success of the Conference.

Encouraged by the success of the Dushanbe Conference and fulfilling the mandate of the resolution 71/222 which declared a period of 2018-2028 as an International Decade for Action ‘Water for Sustainable Development.’ Tajikistan will submit a draft proposal on the Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 this fall.

I hope that based on the success of the Water Decade Resolution which was co-sponsored by 177 countries in 2016, all of your will render your valuable support to my delegation in co-sponsoring and advancing the abovementioned draft resolution through the General Assembly this year.
I thank you.