TALKING POINTS FOR THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES 28 SEPTEMBER ON THE THEME: ‘REVITALIZING PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VPOA AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT’

Hon. Ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. My delegation commends the Republic of Paraguay for its leadership and stewardship of the group.

2. The theme for this meeting is pertinent because a global partnership as stated in Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda remains critical for supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Vienna Programme of Action.

3. As one of the most vulnerable groups of countries, it is essential that Land Locked Developing Countries prioritize partnerships to ensure; infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation, and means of implementation.

4. Consistent with the Vienna Programme of Action, Uganda has made and continues to make progress in the socio-economic transformation of the country working with national, regional and international partners.

5. We prioritize efforts to accelerate and deepen integration in our region. In this regard, we are giving attention to implementation of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects which include; infrastructure development; energy
generation, transmission and interconnectivity; information telecommunications technology; single customs territory and airspace management.

6. A notable ongoing infrastructure development in the region is the implementation of the Standard Gauge Railways. The construction of the Mombasa – Nairobi section in the Northern Corridor is now complete and operational. Uganda is about to embark on its section of the Standard Gauge Railway. With the completed Standard Gauge Railways, railway transport will cost US$0.8 cents per ton per kilometer compared to US$0.21 cents per ton per kilometer by road.

7. This project and others when completed will facilitate increased trade and investment between Uganda and the region, reduce the transit time for exports and imports, reduce cost of doing business, as well as boost industrialization and create employment opportunities.

8. The Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda will be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. We should do our best to mobilize resources, both domestic and external, for implementation including leveraging support from the private sector.

9. The United Nations system has an important role to play and we call on it’s continued support in this regard.

10. Finally, my delegation looks forward to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration which it fully supports.

I Thank you