United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

(UN-OHRLLS)

Statement by
Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

High Representative
and
Under- Secretary- General
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
At
Reception hosted by
Ms Hatmunkh Battsetseg
Deputy Foreign Minister, Mongolia
29 October,
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Your Excellency, Ms Hatmunkh Battsetseg, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

I thank you for being our generous host tonight.

Already earlier today, we had the privilege of you opening our meeting. Once more, my appreciation goes to your Government for receiving all of us in your beautiful country for this important joint meeting.

It is not our first meeting and, I am sure, it is not our last meeting.

Your country's transformational experience over the last three decades is inspiring to us all. As a landlocked country surrounded by some of the most populous economies there are, you early on dealt with issues key to our meeting here. You indeed have a longstanding experience in how to address and overcome landlockedness. And, from what I am told, you also have longstanding exchanges with the United Nations as your partner.

I also must thank all participants for having made the time in your busy schedules to be with us.

We have just come out of a first day of exchanges centered around us sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices on how to tackle the issue of transit transport and development corridors. The key challenge before us is how to make them operational and effective.

I found today's exchanges insightful. I could see how much we can learn from each other.

This is not just another meeting. Before us as I already said this morning, a very strategic moment.

I hope that all of your countries will participate at the highest level at the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action on 5 and 6 December. Please be a strong advocate for this when you go back to your capitals. Be the voice making the case how important transit and corridor management will be to the sustainable development of the LLDCs.

Your work here at the meeting sends a strong signal to the midterm review that corridor development and management is a key issue. Please make your voices heard beyond our meeting!
So without further ado, thank you ALL and enjoy our evening together before we go into a next round of exchanges tomorrow.

Thank you.