

Summary Report of the Landlocked Developing Countries Ambassadorial Level Meeting

Date: 22 January 2020
Location: Conference Room 8
Time: 15:00-18:00

Attendance:

1. Afghanistan	2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan	4. Bhutan
5. Bolivia	6. Botswana
7. Burkina Faso	8. Chad
9. Eswatini	10. Ethiopia
11. Kazakhstan	12. Kyrgyzstan
13. Lao People's Democratic Republic	14. Lesotho
15. Malawi	16. Mali
17. Mongolia	18. Nepal
19. Niger	20. Paraguay
21. Republic of Moldova	22. Rwanda
23. Tajikistan	24. Turkmenistan
25. Uganda	26. Uzbekistan
27. Zambia	28. Zimbabwe

In attendance: UN Deputy Secretary General, UN-OHRLLS

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

In his welcome remarks Ambassador Kairat Umarov, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan and new Chair of the Group of LLDCs, extended his appreciation to all delegates for their trust and support for Kazakhstan's Chairmanship. He warmly welcomed Dr. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General, to the meeting and thanked her for attendance to share her vision and pragmatic strategy. He indicated that the objectives of the meeting was to share with the LLDCs Group the Roadmap of the Group of LLDCS as well as the Chairs' Tentative Working Schedule and solicit inputs of the LLDCs Group.

He recalled that the 32 LLDCs with a combined population of about 509 Million face special challenges related to their geographical remoteness, isolation from the world trade and economic opportunities. He further recalled the challenges faced by LLDCs including, inadequate infrastructure, cumbersome border crossing procedures, as well as structural deficiencies which are further compounded by limited capacities to deal with external shocks as well as climate change.

Reflecting on the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action last December, Ambassador Kairat Umarov indicated that assessments from national reports and three regional MTR meetings and consultations indicated clearly that the progress in the last five years was

insufficient to achieve the objectives of the VPoA and the SDGs by 2030. He recalled the message to enhance common efforts to achieve the goals and targets of the VPoA as echoed during the Chairmanship hand-over ceremony. He emphasized that the second phase of the implementation of the VPoA and the start of the Decade of Action for the SDGs sets significant task for the Bureau and the Group of LLDCs to build on the outcome of Midterm Review of the VPoA and give impetus to the progress to be achieved. He further emphasized that the that the Year 2020, as the UN's 75th anniversary, is significant for the UN family and should be a turning point for enhanced global dialogue that brings outcomes to reach Agenda 2030. He highlighted that evidence is clear that development is not sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive because of rising inequality that hinders long term growth.

Ambassador Kairat Umarov recalled the request received during the Chairman hand-over ceremony which included, to intensify efforts to engage all stakeholders such as UN agencies and international financial institutions, transit countries and developed donor countries in a more active dialogue on substantive implementation of the VPoA and Midterm review political declaration. Other requests included convening an annual multilateral meeting with the participation of all these stakeholders, more active involvement in the work of International Think Tank for LLDCs and increasing visibility of the Group in international fora. He recalled the briefing by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on his 2020 priorities held on 22 January 2020 during which as the Chair of the Group he pointed out that LLDCs are heavily lagging behind in their targets for reaching the 17 SDGs and the VPoA. He further brought to the attention of the Secretary General the fact that, while UN projects are developed on individual country-specific basis, the numerous challenges are transboundary in nature, and that therefore called for greater consultations, coordination and streamlining within the UN system which could result in more efficient coherence with a view to avoid wasteful overlaps and duplication. He thus emphasized that UN agencies and the Member States should build a new approach of greater regional cooperation to overcome contemporary challenges. He further emphasized robust collaboration amongst LLDCs, between LLDCs and transit countries accompanied by enhanced support from development partners. He called for strengthened coordination among the UN agencies and their integrated support to implement the VPoA and Midterm Review Political Declaration to achieve inclusive sustainable development. He emphasized that need to establish a more efficient dialogue and coordination between the UN agencies to overcome modern challenges affecting LLDCs. He further emphasized strengthening the implementation of international legal framework as one of the vital factors for LLDCs success. He highlighted the importance of establishing close coordination of the LLDCs with other groups of vulnerable countries (i.e LDCs and SIDS) to further consolidate the unity and solidarity of the three groups as a strong negotiating force in relevant fora, to settle the diverse and unique challenges faced by individual countries of the three groups.

Ambassador Kairat Umarov extended gratitude to H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, High Representative for UN-OHRLLS, and her staff for their commitment to the common cause of the LLDCs and he appealed to strengthening the OHRLLS Sub-programme for LLDCs within necessary resources as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution on budgetary matters adopted in December 2019.

Ambassador Kairat Umarov went on to outlined activities that Chair and the Bureau have already started, including meeting with Mr. Liu Zhenmin, USG on Economic and Social Affairs, on opportunities of coherent cooperation with DESA on 6 January, meeting with Dr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, on enhanced cooperation with the Programme held on 14 January 2020, meeting with Global Directors of the World Bank Group on Trade and Trade Transport. He drew delegates’ attention to the four major high-level meetings for LLDCs this year, including Ministerial meeting of LLDCs on Transport to be held from 26 to 27 March in Awaza, Turkmenistan; Second Global UN Conference on Sustainable Transport to be held from 6 to 7 May in Beijing, China; Ministerial meeting of LLDCs on Trade to be held on 7 June and followed by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held from 8 to 11 June in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan; and Annual Ministerial LLDCs Meeting in September in New York.

To conclude, Ambassador Kairat Umarov reiterated Kazakhstan’s full commitment to the LLDCs Group, extended resolution to revitalize cooperation with all stakeholders including international institutions, private sectors and academia, and encouraged all Member States to work together to fully implement the VPoA and achieve SDGs by 2030.

Agenda item 2: Remarks by H.E. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed.

H.E. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed expressed her pleasure to participate in the Ambassadorial meeting. She congratulated the new chair, Ambassador Kairat Umarov and the new Bureau on their election. She further thanked the former chair, representative of Paraguay and the previous Bureau for leading the group. She recalled that 2019 was an significant year for collective efforts to end poverty and achieve sustainable development. She recalled that in September 2019, the UN hosted the most important development-focused high-level week since 2015 - with the SDG Summit, the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit, and high-level meetings on universal health coverage, small island developing states, and financing for development and closed the year with the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, which adopted a forward-looking Political Declaration. She noted that a common narrative ran across the meeting, that Governments and development partners are embracing the 2030 Agenda and related-development frameworks that identify the challenges and the way forward for specific country contexts, such as VPoA. She noted that progress was being made, for example, many LLDCs have integrated SDGs and priorities of the VPoA into their national development strategies. She noted some progress on indicators related to health, education, energy, gender equality and ICTs. She further noted that efforts were underway to develop transit transport corridors and that ratifications of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

by LLDCs and transit countries was high. She pointed out that despite the notable progress in some areas, progress was not on track to achieve the SDGs and that many LLDCs continue to face major hurdles. She noted that one-third of the population of LLDCs is still living in poverty and that LLDCs continue to pay more than double in transport costs compared to their transit neighbors. She pointed out that the high transport costs, limited capacity to produce high-value products and other constraints impact LLDC competitiveness and integration into regional and global trade as well as hinder sustainable development and resilience of the economies of these countries. She emphasized that to deliver the SDGs every actor will have to up their game.

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed went on to recalled that the Secretary-General in his meeting outlined what he sees as the greatest threats endangering 21st-century progress and imperiling 21st-century possibilities – the “Four Horsemen”. She pointed out that the first comes in the form of the highest global geostrategic tensions faced in years; the second was the climate crisis; third, the deep and growing global mistrust, with more and more people feeling left behind by globalization; and fourth, the dangers posed by the dark side of the digital world, with technological advances moving faster than our ability to respond. She noted that these existential and interlinked challenges require engagement beyond 2020 hence the Secretary-General declared the next 10 years leading up to 2030 a Decade of Action for delivery and opportunity on the SDGs. She highlighted that the Decade of Action is an opportunity to generate an unstoppable movement for people and planet, to inspire greater mobilization, ambition, financing and solutions for the world’s biggest challenges – ranging from poverty and inequality to climate change and gender. She noted that addressing the challenges faced by LLDCs and living up to the pledge of “leave no one behind” would be central to these efforts. She pointed out that physical connectivity - the hard infrastructure, and trade facilitation - the soft infrastructure, value addition, diversification, and movement up value chains, are therefore fundamental and that Climate change, desertification, droughts, environmental degradation and disasters also remain important challenges where solutions were needed. She stressed that to succeed, all key stakeholders, including, LLDCs, transit countries, development partners, private sector, UN System Organizations needed to join efforts.

She noted that the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Kazakhstan in June 2020 would be the first WTO Conference held in an LLDCs and thus provides an opportunity to strengthen partnerships around the LLDC agenda. She also highlighted that it was essential for the Global Sustainable Transport Conference to be held in Beijing to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport objectives in LLDCs.

She highlighted that with 12 LLDCs submitting their voluntary national reviews in 2020 High-Level Political Forum and that could generate greater understanding and support to overcome LLDC development challenges. She further highlighted that the Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review calls upon the United Nations system to continue to provide support to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and in that regard the United Nations remained fully committed to continued support to LLDCs towards the attainment

of sustainable development. She pointed out that the repositioned UN development system was much better placed to support Member States' efforts to achieve sustainable development, with empowered Resident Coordinators, a new generation of UN Country Teams, as well strengthened regional level to make optimal use of expertise, enabling UN Development System to provide tailored responses to national priorities, informed by the Cooperation Framework and the Common Country Analysis it is based on.

She further highlighted that the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS would continue to coordinate and mobilize the relevant United Nations system to support the LLDCs and the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. She informed about the ongoing evaluation of OHRLLS by OIOS and assured the meeting of implementation of the final recommendations.

She concluded her remarks wished Kazakhstan a successful tenure as the Chair of the LLDCs Group and expressed her full commitment and that of the Secretary-General to serving the needs of LLDCs.

Agenda item 3: Election of the Bureau Member from the Group of African States.

H.E Ambassador Kairat Umarov recalled the Group elected Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Mali, Nepal and Zimbabwe as the LLDCs Bureau for 2020/21. He noted that since the election of the aforementioned Bureau Members, Lesotho had also submitted its candidature to join the Bureau. He invited the Meeting to endorse Lesotho to join the LLDCs Bureau and there was no objection to Lesotho's endorsement. Chair congratulated and welcomed Lesotho to Bureau. He further recalled that according to the Rules of Procedure, a complete Bureau should comprise seven representatives of Members States as follows: three from Africa region, two from Asia region, one from Eastern Europe Region and one from Latin America. He noted that the election of Lesotho completed the required number of Members of the Bureau from the Africa Group. He encouraged the Eastern Europe Region to fill their vacancy in the Bureau.

In his response, H.E. Nkopane Monyane, Ambassador of Lesotho thanked the Deputy Secretary General and high-level representatives for their presence and for addressing the meeting. He further thanked the Group for Lesotho's election and assured the Group of Lesotho's readiness to serve the Group.

Remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, the High Representative of the United Nations for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

In her remarks Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu thanked the Chair for inviting her to the meeting and for sharing his priorities for the 2 years of his tenure. He commended him for his comprehensive set of priorities. She recalled that the Comprehensive High-level Midterm review

on the implementation of the VPoA identified achievements and areas where more action was needed. She noted that the priorities presented Chair already captured the key issues highlighted in the Political Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action and would definitely help in advancing the implementation and she called for active implementation of the midterm review and the VPoA.

She highlighted some of OHRLLS activities that would be undertaken to support the implementation of Chair's priorities. She indicated that OHRLLS would undertake analytical work related to the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action to provide evidence-based support to the LLDC group and to be used in the preparation of the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the VPoA. She informed that OHRLLS was preparing a substantive report on "Improving Transport Connectivity for LLDCs and Building of Resilient Transport Infrastructure to Support Accelerated Progress Towards the SDGs".

She further informed that OHRLLS planned to organize thematic meetings on relevant key issues of interest to the group such as transit and transport, international trade, trade facilitation, Information Communication Technology, regional integration, and climate change. She highlighted OHRLLS would provide the substantive and organizational support to the preparation of: Ministerial Transport Conference for LLDCs to be hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan on the 26th & 27th March 2020; and the LLDC Ministerial Meeting on trade to be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan in the margins of the WTO Ministerial Meeting in June 2020. She also highlighted that OHRLLS will intend to use opportunities presented by major meetings to articulate the development needs of the LLDCs including by organizing side events. She pointed out that OHRLLS planned to organize side events at the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference to be held in China 5th – 7th May; and at the 12th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference to be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan in Nur Sultan from the 8th to 11th June.

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu further informed that OHRLLS will provide substantive support to the group in the ongoing follow-up processes to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, such as the HLPF, the Financing for Development Forum, BBNJ, and QCPR. Furthermore, she shared that OHRLLS will organize capacity building activities, facilitate exchange of experiences and peer learning among LLDCs and transit developing countries. She also indicated that OHRLLS was organizing a training session of policy-makers from Ministries of Transport of LLDCs and transit countries on how to promote transport connectivity and development of resilient transport infrastructure and preparation of bankable infrastructure projects. She further informed that OHRLLS would undertake as well as support chair on advocacy activities for enhanced international support towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. She also highlighted that OHRLLS planned to organize interagency meeting to mobilize UN support to implement the VPoA and the outcome of the Midterm Review and that will also support the Chair in organizing all the thematic consultations with the UN and other international organizations.

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu recalled the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and highlighted that OHRLLS will support the Group to highlight its priorities in this process.. She concluded by reassuring the Group of OHRLLS support to implement LLDCs’ strategic priorities and thanked the group for its support.

Agenda item 4: Interactive discussion with the Group Member States.

The Ambassador of Paraguay congratulated Chair on the assumption of his role as Chair of the Group of LLDCs. He expressed his gratitude to the attendance of the Deputy Secretary General, and he highlighted that he was honored to work with her during his term as the Chair of the Group of LLDCs. He reaffirmed her devotion to the cause of LLDCs. He also applauded the Chair for the comprehensive roadmap with balanced approach covering all relevant priorities of the VPoA and pressing issues. He noted that it was important to take advantage of the momentum set by the midterm review of the VPoA and press for dedicated session for LLDCs during HLPF as it is the case with LDCs and SIDS. He concluded by reassuring Paraguay’s devotion to the cause of the LLDCs.

The Ambassador of Afghanistan extended a special note of appreciation to the current and previous chair, as well as the new Bureau. She expressed her gratitude to the Deputy Secretary General and for expressing UN support to the LLDCs. She highlighted that sustainable and meaningful changes are possible when the member countries work together. She welcomed the roadmap which she indicated would strengthen partnerships at regional and global levels. She emphasized that Afghanistan would work diligently for effective partnership and commitment to shared tasks. She stressed Afghanistan’s support for International Think Tank. She noted that building sustainable economies is the core objective of this group and concluded by stressing that the unique geographical situation should not be looked as a disadvantage but a source that can be utilized. She highlighted that more remains to be done and pointed out that LLDCs also face diverse challenges, for example, some are recovering from conflicts and therefore need support to implement the VPoA.

The Ambassador of Zimbabwe congratulated the Chair and noted that the roadmap was comprehensive. He stressed that cooperation of LLDCs, LDCs and SIDs would build synergies between the three Groups. He expressed gratitude for OHRLLS support to the Group. He highlighted the importance of achieving efficient and uninterrupted transit from ports to LLDCs. In this regards he emphasized the importance of the use of ICT. He encouraged engagements with countries that have the capacities to provide support to LLDCs including China and EU. He also suggested that successful landlocked countries such as Switzerland and Austria can also be engaged to share their experiences. In his response Chair share the sentiment also shared by the Secretary General during his briefing on 22 January 2020 that LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS share similar challenges. He also indicated that he was planning a meeting with China. He also recalled his interactions with the World Bank Group and that will collaborate with the Bank on areas such as transport and trade facilitation.

The Ambassador of Armenia also congratulated the Chair and thanked him for sharing the Roadmap and he also expressed his gratitude to Kazakhstan as the former chair of the Group. He expressed his appreciation to Chairs the efforts to prioritize the regional cooperation with transit countries. He emphasized the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation in trade and transport. He stressed the importance of the ICT for lowering cost and increasing access to foreign market and called for a briefing session focusing on ICT He expressed his readiness to support the Chair in his efforts.,

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan noted that the roadmap was both challenging and ambitious. He emphasized that specific expert meetings were necessary. He also stressed the importance of prioritizing more urgent issues.

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Tajikistan noted that the Midterm review was an important milestone. He highlighted that Tajikistan was taking the necessary steps to enhance connectivity and promote sub-regional and regional trade. He shared initiative undertaken by Tajikistan including expanding trade corridors and improving infrastructure as well as establishing economic zones.

The Ambassador of Mongolia expressed his gratitude to the Paraguay and ongratulated the new Bureau and the new Chair. He also expressed his gratitude to the USG-OHRLLS and her team for their continuous support to the LLDCs. He stressed the importance of accelerating the implementation of the political declaration of the VPoA. He expressed his hope that the implementation of the Chairs' roadmap would result in strong partnership for the benefit of LLDCs. He suggested the convening of annual meeting of interested stakeholders. Finally, he affirmed his support to the Chair and the Group.

The representative of Ethiopia echoed the sentiment that LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS faced similar challenges. He emphasized the importance of working together on common areas of vulnerabilities. He stressed the importance of partnership for the development support. He also recognized Secretary General's efforts to complement the efforts of the LLDCs. He welcomed the Chair's roadmap and highlighted that elements included can contribute to accelerating the implementation of the VPoA. He concluded by assuring Chair of Ethiopia's full support

The Ambassador of Nepal extended congratulation to Kazakhstan for the hard work in preparing of the roadmap and also expressed gratitude to Permanent Representative of Paraguay and his team for the excellent work during their tenure. He further congratulated Lesotho for its election to the bureau. He further expressed appreciation to OHRLLS for support and full commitment to the Group. He welcomed the plan to deepen collaboration with international organizations such as World Bank and IMF as well as with regional organizations, LDCs and SIDS. He stressed the need to also engage regional banks. ,. He highlighted that midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action gave a clear picture of the where progress has been achieved as well as the remaining gaps. He noted that the multilateral trading system was going through turbulence and LLDCs were more

vulnerable. He expressed his optimism to the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Kazakhstan to find solutions to the challenges faced by LLDCs. He underscored that LLDCs were more vulnerable and performed below LDCs in terms of growth of export volume since 2014 and many are faced with trade deficit. Additionally, LLDCs face severe threat of climate change and needs to be at the forefront of climate action, climate adjusting and climate financing. He highlighted that it was in this regard that the Government of Nepal was convening Sagarmatha Dialogue themed as “Climate Change Mountains and Future of Humanity” in April 2020 in Kathmandu. He also emphasized the need for special support to LLDCs for trade facilitate. He emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration with transit countries and called greater focus on the issues in the roadmap. He further emphasized the importance of deepening regional integration to transform LLDCs to land-linked countries. He concluded by assuring the meeting of Nepal’s full commitment to play its part to ensure that LLDCs are not left behind.

The Ambassador of Malawi thanked the Chair for the work so far achieved and congratulated Lesotho and other bureau members for their election. He commended the chair for comprehensive road map and the accompanying demanding work schedule. He appreciated his effort in meeting with organizations such as World Bank as part of the working schedule. He mentioned that he in his capacity as the Chair of LDCs Group has been invited to a meeting with World Bank Group including IMF to be held on 5 and 6 February 2020. He invited Ambassador Kairat Umarov to meet with him to discuss issues that could be raise during the meetings with the World Bank Group. He encouraged members of the Group to convene a dialogue or exchange of thoughts with institutions like DESA. As the Chair of LDC Group, Ambassador of Malawi expressed his readiness to work more closely with LLDCs Group. He also expressed interest to attend meetings with relevant organizations depending on availability of resources. Ambassador highlighted that the year 2020 is a significant year as LDCs prepare for the Conference to be held in 2021 in Doha, Qatar. He informed that the meeting conference will be preceded by regional meeting and Malawi will be hosting the Africa regional review meeting. The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan thanked Ambassador Julio César Arriola and his team for his successful chairmanship of the Group and congratulated Ambassador Kairat Umarov for new leadership in the next two years. He indicated that in addition to the changes associated with landlockedness, Kyrgyzstan was also mountainous which causes different social, economic and ecological problems. He highlighted that despite the progress of integrating mountainous countries in the SDG Agenda, challenges faced by Kyrgyzstan and other mountainous countries in the LLDCs Group still need to be addressed urgently. He seek collaboration and cooperation between LLDCs Group and the mountainous countries as some of these countries are also LLDCs. The Ambassador of Rwanda expressed her gratitude to the leadership and efforts of Paraguay to raise awareness of the LLDCs’ needs and congratulated Kazakhstan as new Chair, she also thanked USG and OHRLLS for the support to LLDCs Group. He thanked Chair for the ambitious programme. She noted all issues have been covered. She stressed that connectivity, including infrastructure connectivity and internet connectivity were at the center of challenges faced by LLDCs. She acknowledged the challenges faced by mountainous countries and pointed out that Rwanda was also mountainous and expressed her readiness to

cooperate closely with Kyrgyzstan on the issue. She then emphasized two elements necessary to achieving VPoA priorities: 1) collaboration with regional development banks, which are among the top investors in national and regional infrastructure projects, 2) collaboration with private sector. She suggested that an interactive session with the private sector can be organized in December 2020. She advised that meetings could be organized in clusters, e.g. ICT and transport infrastructure. She highlighted that investment agencies from capital could be invited to such meetings. .

The representative of Burkina Faso commended Paraguay for leading the Group and congratulated Kazakhstan for its election as Chair of the Group. He commended Chair for the impressive roadmap. He emphasized enhanced collaboration with the International Think Tank. He stressed the importance of research and reminded the Group to fully exploit research outcome of International Think Tank. He also emphasized the importance of financing and the need to secure support for enhanced infrastructure development and achieving sustainable development goals.

The Ambassador of Mali thanked Paraguay for their able work during the tenure and congratulated Kazakhstan for the new leadership in the Group. He commended the Chair for the ambitious roadmap that takes into account the LLDCs priorities. He drew attention to the point that meeting scheduled with heads of agencies outside New York was very important, he also appreciated the Chair to focus on climate crisis because Mali is suffering adverse consequence of climate change such as conflicts and loss of life. He assured the Chair full commitment to support and collaborate as Bureau Member.

The representative of Zambia expressed appreciation to Paraguay for their leadership and congratulated Kazakhstan as the new Chair as well as Lesotho as new Bureau Member. She pledged full support to Chair's efforts and leadership in the Group, expressed confidence in Kazakhstan's effective and able Chairmanship during the tenure, and assured full support from Zambia to realize the outcome of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The Ambassador of Lao PDR thanked the Chair for convening the meeting and for the roadmap and tentative working schedule for the next two years. He highlighted that it is important to improve engagement of transit countries and regional commission and establish joint initiatives for cooperation in the specific regions. He welcomed the training of policymakers in LLDCs which will be held in China and expressed support from Government of Laos to the Chair and Bureau Members.

Closing

Ambassador Kairat Umarov thanked all delegates for attendance and valuable inputs, promised to incorporate those input into the roadmap and circulate the outcome with all delegates. He thank the delegation for their commitment to the Group of LLDCs. He invited all delegates, transit country partners, Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and High Representative to the reception to be held at 6:30 at the Mission of Kazakhstan to further discuss relevant issues.