



UN-OHRLLS

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Statement

by

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during agenda item ‘Consultations on the substantive and organizational preparations for the Second UN Conference on LLDCs’

Fourth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting
on the Preparatory Process for the Second UN Conference on
LLDCs

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Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Dear colleagues,

Mr. Acharya has earlier given you the bird's eye view of where we stand in the preparations for the Conference.

I will now go into more detail of the organizational aspects of the preparations as well as the modalities of the Conference itself. Let me highlight some of the major new features from the General Assembly Resolution 68/225 on the Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of LLDCs, as they relate to the Conference:

- The resolution noted the progress being made in the preparatory process for the Conference in the three tracks
- It requested OHRLLS as the UN system-wide focal point for the preparations to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the whole UN system.
- It requests the relevant organizations of the UN system, other international organizations, and relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself.
- The General Assembly welcomed the appointment of Mr. Acharya as the Secretary-General of the Conference and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund.
- It requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the UN system, to intensify advocacy efforts for the Conference.
- The resolution requested the Secretary-General to submit: (a) to the second UN conference on LLDCs a report on the 10-year Review of

the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; and (b) to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the outcome of the Conference.

- The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organizational aspects of the conference.

Let me now highlight the key elements proposed in this Secretary-General's note A/68/708, which has been shared with you, and its implications. The General Assembly is expected to adopt a resolution on the organizational aspects of the Conference within the next few weeks.

As Mr. Acharya mentioned, the Government of Austria has made an offer to host the Conference from 3 to 5 November 2014 in Vienna. The intergovernmental process of the Conference itself will consist of the Committee of the Whole and six plenary meetings.

The Conference will be preceded by two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference. The first session is proposed to be held on 12 and 13 June 2014, and the second session on 11 and 12 September 2014, both at the UN Headquarters in New York. A bureau consisting of Member States with equitable geographical representation, will be established to conduct the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and informal consultations.

Turning now to the activities to be held on the side lines of the Conference, a high-level private sector business and investment forum will be organized during the Conference. I will give you more details on this later this morning when I give you an update on the private sector track.

In addition, a number of high-level interactive thematic round tables and side events will be organized to facilitate exchange of views and build consensus on special needs and priorities of landlocked developing countries in key development areas, as well as to announce specific deliverables and initiatives in favour of LLDCs. I will not go into more details on this now, as it will be the topic of discussion in our afternoon session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Turning now to the thematic pre-conference activities, before you take the floor, let me briefly highlight the recent events, as well as upcoming events, to be organized, under the purview of OHRLLS.

Since our last inter-agency meeting in June, OHRLLS organized a side event on Renewing Global Partnerships for Connecting LLDCs to the World Markets that was held on 3 July, 2013 during the High Level segment of ECOSOC. The discussion emphasized that while LLDCs have made commendable progress over the last decade, including in the implementation of the Almaty programme of Action, they are still lagging behind in the achievement of the MDGs. In that light, the event acknowledged that there is a need to renew global partnership for landlocked developing countries towards the implementation of their new development agenda and highlighted some key lessons learned and made suggestions for the new Programme of Action for LLDCs.

OHRLLS and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation jointly launched the pilot South-South Technology Transfer Facility for LLDCs on 31 October, in Nairobi during the Global South-South Development Expo. The facility is designed to facilitate South-South transfer of viable, sector-specific technologies aimed at developing and strengthening capacities and

production in LLDCs, in areas such as sustainable agriculture, dairy and agro-food processing, water management, global health, climate change adaptation and renewable energy. It will be piloted in a few landlocked developing countries

In terms of upcoming pre-conference events, the General Assembly and ECOSOC are jointly organizing 2014 Partnerships Forum in New York on 9 and 10 April on the role of partnerships in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. This will be a high-level event, to be opened by the president of the GA, President of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General. As part of this Forum, one of the three partnerships sessions on the second day will focus on ‘Partnership opportunities on Sustainable Transit Transport for LLDCs’. The session will focus on how partnerships can promote sustainable international transit transport for the LLDCs with an emphasis on reducing transit transport costs, and concrete proposals on how effective partnerships can promote road and railway network development, improve logistics, and drive efficiency in transit transport.

In order to start inter-governmental consultations on the key elements for the outcome document of the Conference, OHRLLS will organize a retreat in New York for key negotiators. This retreat is planned for 3 May. Key representatives from the LLDCs, transit countries and donors will be invited to informally discuss the key substantive elements for the outcome document.

We have also been in discussions to organize jointly with UNDP a pre-conference event on enhancing international support and financing for LLDCs. The modalities for the event are still being worked out at this stage. The main objective of the event is to substantively address all issues related

to international support measures for LLDCs' development, and in particular for transit transport development and maintenance and enhancing trade facilitation. The meeting will provide recommendations for enhancing international resource mobilizations for LLDCs for the next decade, including in the areas of ODA, Aid for Trade, private capital flows, innovative sources and modalities for financing and South-South cooperation.

OHRLLS will be also organizing with the Government of Mongolia and the International Think Tank for LLDCs a high-level international meeting on trade facilitation. The meeting will take place on 2-3 June in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It will focus on the progress in improving trade facilitation and capacity-building in the field of trade facilitation in LLDCs, and provide clarification on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement reached at the WTO Bali Ministerial and substantively assess the agreement. We are hoping that the meeting can be organized in collaboration with international organizations such as UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, World Bank, and UNDP.

In addition, an event on 'Assessing the vulnerability of LLDCs to external shocks and developing vulnerability indicators for early warning purposes in LLDCs', organized by OHRLLS, will be held later this year. A background study is currently being prepared by OHRLLS.

I look forward to our continued fruitful partnership on the remaining preparatory activities and at the conference itself.