

**Remarks by LLDC Group Chair
Ambassador Thongphane SAVANPHET, Permanent Representative
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations Office,
WTO and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the Fourth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting
Geneva, 20 February 2014**

- H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States,
- Ambassador Juan Esteban Aguirre, Permanent Representative of Paraguay,
- Permanent Representatives,
- Representatives of Regional Commissions, Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations,
- Excellencies,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) for organizing the Fourth Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting here in Geneva, particularly to H.E. Under-Secretary-General Gyan Chandra Acharya for his active personal involvement in a series of these Inter-Agency Consultative Group and other related meetings.

It is indeed my great honor to attend this important meeting in my capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.

- Excellencies,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

The Comprehensive Ten-Years Review Conference on the implementation of the Almaty Program of Action to be held in November this year is of utmost importance for Landlocked Developing Countries as it is held only once in a decade. It provides a unique opportunity for the landlocked and transit developing countries, the development partners as well as international financial and development institutions not only to comprehensively and critically assess the implementation of the Almaty Program of Action in terms of best practices and implementation gap, but also to identify effective international, regional, sub-regional and national policies and support measures in the area of international trade and transit transport cooperation in light of new and emerging challenges.

In this context, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the Government of Austria for its generous offer to host this Comprehensive Ten-Years Review Conference in Vienna later this year and call upon all states, the UN system, financial institutions, regional and international organizations as well as private sectors to enhance their support to the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, and actively contribute to the preparatory process and participate in the conference.

- Excellencies,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is important to point out the fact that over the past decade, challenges and opportunities have arisen for the Landlocked Developing Countries that were not yet visible at the time of preparing the Almaty Program of Action. Hence, we need to take new challenges and opportunities into due consideration in the course of reviewing the Almaty Program of Action and preparations for the Second UN Conference in order to ensure a renewed development partnership framework for the next decade. Areas such as transit transport infrastructure development, trade policy and trade facilitation and productive capacity building should remain important and require further effort and action. In addition, the issues related to climate change, land degradation, desertification and deforestation, as well as issues that just mentioned by H.E. Under-Secretary-General, should also be thoroughly discussed and addressed in the context of the next Program of Action.

The success of the Review Conference would be based on the three tracks: Intergovernmental Track; United Nations and other International and Regional Organizations Track; and the Private Sector Track. For the intergovernmental track, three regional review meetings namely: Euro-Asia, Africa and Latin America were conducted in 2013, whereas a number of private sector meetings had also been held. Three Inter-Agency track consultations have already been organized and today's meeting is the Fourth in a row. Therefore, we believe that with strong support of the UN-OHRLLS, the UN specialized agencies and international organizations, this Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting would provide yet another important inputs and contributions, feeding into the global preparations for an outcome document of the Review Conference.

Last but not least, we would like to reaffirm LLDC Group' strong commitment to working closely with all of you, and express our sincere appreciation to you for your continued support and cooperation rendered to the Landlocked Developing Countries.

I wish the meeting a great success.

Thank you for your kind attention.
