Closing Remarks by H.E. Dr. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Chairman of the Group of LLDCs

Delivered at the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked developing countries

Held in Almaty, Kazakhstan

12 September 2012

- Your Excellencies
- Honorable Ministers
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a great pleasure to be with you today for Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked developing countries. It has been a very productive day and in my view we have covered all essential issues that concerned LLDCs, and we have received many insightful, constructive, encouraging comments and suggestions.

Particularly, we discussed key challenges that LLDCs are facing in the WTO accession process, and practical suggestions on how to improve the accession process; we also learned a lot from the Ministers about their country experiences in enhancing trade facilitation in order to improve export competitiveness by reducing transport and transit costs. Through today’s discussions, we have also made progress in formulating our position in international trade talks and how to facilitate fuller integration
of the LLDCs into the World economy. Finally, we also shared our experiences in improving effectiveness of Aid for Trade.

In general, the consensus amongst participants is that the declaration that we adopted today is a true reflection of our common position on trade negotiation, strategies and actions to further improve the trade potential of the LLDCs, and the preparation of the Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme.

I thank you all for your valuable inputs and active participation in today’s meeting.

Once again, I would like to express special thanks to His Excellency Mr. Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting this important Meeting, and H.E. Mr. Manuel Maria Caceres, Vice Minister of External Affairs and Economic Issues of Paraguay, Coordinator of the Group of landlocked developing countries on matters related to trade and development in Geneva for his leadership and personal commitment on the development interests of the landlocked developing countries, and OHRLLS for excellent organization of this event.

To our valued Development Partners, the United Nations system organizations, other international organizations, the regional development banks, and other stakeholders, I would like to thank you all for the wonderful contribution you have made to address the special needs and problems of Landlocked Developing Countries in integrating into World economy. We look forward to continued engagement with you for the benefit of the LLDCs.