

Mr. Under Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Ambassador Cheick Sidi Diarra,

Mrs., Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Byrganym Aitimova

Representatives of the Regional Commissions

Representatives of specialized agencies of the United Nations

Permanent Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to attend the inter-agency Consultative Group Meeting, in my capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries. As you well know the Almaty Program of Action is approaching the end of its decade, and our Group attaches great importance to the ten-year comprehensive review conference of the Almaty Program to be held in 2014.

Our Group believes that the next Conference represent a unique opportunity, for the landlocked and transit developing countries and the development partners, to assess the implementation of the Almaty Programmed, looking in particular at its best practices and areas of weakness.

We are still facing the same difficulties since 2003. We need to continue developing and maintain adequate transit transport infrastructure. We must ensure connectivity through regional strategic trade corridors, to access seaports, regional trade partners and lower trade costs, with the main objective to facilitate the integration of landlocked developing countries into a complex and changing world economy.

The aim of the review Conferences should be to build up a common action-oriented strategic framework for the next decade, based on scaled-up partnerships among landlocked and transit developing countries and effectively supported by the development partners.

Besides our inherent and particular troubles, the LLDC's are facing new challenges such as rising food and energy prices, which undermine our economies and exacerbate our vulnerability.

At the same time, we believe that issues related to climate change should be addresses in the next Conferences and subsequently in the next Program of Action. This assertion is based on the negative impact that climate change poses on LLDC's, mainly by land degradation, desertification and deforestation, ensuing in a decrease in the accessibility of food and water, and the destruction of transportation infrastructure.

From our point of view it is crucial a comprehensive review at the regional levels, taking into account the significant relationship between the landlocked developing countries and the transit countries. We also would like to encourage the involvement of the private sector, because as main actors of international trade, it can provide important information, perspectives and identify challenges in order to solve our weakness and overcome underdevelopment.

We can not fail to mention that development partners should play an important role in supporting transit transport development programs. The Official Development Assistance remains essential - both in quantity and quality.

Initiatives similar to Aid for Trade are a vital component of trade liberalization, helping building trade infrastructure such as transport, communication, power facilities, and addressing some of the adjustments required by opening the domestic market.

We wish to reiterate that the Official Development Assistance and Aid for Trade concepts and initiatives are different from each other. Financing or implementation one initiative cannot weaken the other.

The success of the Conference will be based on three pillars: the Member States of the United Nations, the United Nations System through its specialized agencies and the third pillar is the private sector.

Particularly, we need to reiterate the importance of the Office of The High Representative, headed by Ambassador Diarra and his team; because without their support, efforts and tenacity, it would be very difficult achieve our objectives and expectations. We understand that a strong and vigorous Office of The High Representative will contribute greatly to a successful Conference.

Finally, we strongly believe that the support of the specialized agencies in this task is essential. The LLDC's are willing to work with all of you, in order to achieve a new Program of action which shall contribute to the development of knowledge, integration and solidarity between the countries, as a key to bridging social and economic gaps, and in turn help in the fight against poverty.

Thank you very much.