



UN-OHRLLS

**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small
Island Developing States.**

Statement

by

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Closing statement delivered during
The Vulnerability of LLDCs to External Shocks Event

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NLB Conference Room 6
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Excellencies,

Let me thank our panelists for their presentation and everyone for attending and taking part in today's event. The purpose for today's thematic discussion was twofold: first, we sought to highlight external shocks as a major challenge that confronts LLDCs and impedes them from attaining fast, sustainable and inclusive growth. It has been made abundantly clear that landlockedness and external shocks coincides to make the development path followed by LLDCs much more difficult. External shocks prevent forward movements, and at the same time cause immense pressures to erase realized gains.

The second purpose for this discussion was to stimulate our thought process into considering how external shocks can be linked to different development discussions taking place today. While resilience building has been a priority for some groups of countries such as the SIDS, it is a relatively "new" subject for LLDCs. We need to ensure that appropriate measures are taken at national, regional, sub-regional as well as international levels to foster resilience building mechanisms, and address different vulnerabilities – all of which are important efforts that can help LLDCs consolidate their development gains.

We have heard that external shocks are increasingly becoming more frequent and challenging. Trade and globalization represent major channels through which shocks are propagated from developed countries to LLDCs. But these are by no means the only channels. LLDCs are bearing greater burdens that stem from social and environmental challenges, such as climate change impact and refugee problems. The geography of these countries enhance their vulnerability and at the same time seriously undermine their resilience.

Today's discussion laid ground for future meetings on the subject that my office and our partners intend to organize. We are committed to assisting LLDCs understand their development challenges, and support them in coming up with practical tools such as an early warning system, vulnerability indicators and indices. We are confident that when time comes, a large number of partners from inside and outside of the UN system will

respond favorably to our invitation for support. A broad coalition of experts and organization is needed to enable my office and Members of the LLDC group to reach the lofty goals that we set for ourselves.

Please note that the summary report of today's meeting will be available on our website. We will also be sharing our in-depth thoughts on this subject in the form of a study that we hope to publish soon. Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you of very important dates for LLDCs.

3-5 November 2014 - The Second UN Conference on LLDCs, Vienna, Austria; 12-13 June 2014 first PrepComs, UN Headquarters, New York; and 2-3 October 2014 second PrepComs, UN Headquarters, New York.

Once again, let me thank everyone for attending today's event.