

**Ambassadorial Retreat in preparation of the UN LLDC II Conference**

**Glen Cove Mansion, Glen Cove, NY  
9-10 May, 2014**

**Remarks by Dr. Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative of the International Chamber of Commerce to  
the UN and Chair of the Private Sector Steering Committee**

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

My name is Louise Kantrow, I am the Permanent Representative to the United Nations for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and also serve as Chair of the Private Sector Steering Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the GA resolution which was adopted in 15 April 2014 confirming the organizational aspects of the Conference. I believe the resolution would provide the necessary influence to gain political will, drive the momentum and galvanize active participation of member states and non-governmental stakeholders, including the private sector, for a successful Conference. In addition, I very much appreciate the invitation to address the Retreat, which to me signals great interest in the participation of non-governmental stakeholders.

As most of you are aware, the Private Sector Steering Committee for this conference was formed in July 2013 consisting of over 15 members from landlocked and transit countries as well as UN agencies and other international organizations including the ICC and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). We envision further outreach to additional potential members in the next few weeks. As reflected in the Concept Note for the Private Sector Track, the Committee's was given the mandate to:

- Act as a platform for building consensus and common position of the private sector
- Act as a vehicle for private sector participation and representation throughout the preparatory process, including in regional review meetings and intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings.

Today, I am pleased to share with you a few updates regarding the Private Sector Steering Committee activities since its formation. The Committee convenes periodically via conference call to discuss updates and participation at different activities and events surrounding the pre-conference preparations. We have made efforts to actively mobilize our members including participation in several pre-conference meetings and have developed a set of talking points for private sector participants to provide concrete guidance on business positions as business representatives engage in these discussions.

To help facilitate the management and exchange of information, we have created a private online forum for the Committee. It serves as a repository of all relevant documents and information related to the

Conference and also allows the Committee members to interact in an online forum setting. We anticipate a more active use of this platform going forward leading up to the Conference in November this year.

To begin the Committee's work in preparing for the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee meetings, we developed a survey with the assistance of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the OHRLS Secretariat, which aimed to collect their perspective on pertinent issues faced by LLDCs as well as transit countries. Through the results of this survey, we also plan to draft key business messages that we would like to convey that resonate more strongly with LLDCs, as well as, transit countries. I am pleased to share with you a draft preliminary synthesis of the survey results. We anticipate further revisions to the document to streamline the substantive content before sharing it more widely.

As you will notice, the issues that have been identified in the survey almost mirror the outcomes of the regional meetings and thematic pre-conference events as summarized in the concept note for this Retreat.

*They have highlighted that while improved trade and transport remain crucial for greater integration of LLDCs into the international market, there is a need to address the LLDCs issues in a more coherent and holistic manner, ensuring that broader aspects of development are also addressed. Efforts to improve transit transport infrastructure and trade facilitation need to be accompanied by efforts to build productive capacity, promote value addition, industrialization and diversification of economics as well as technology transfer, and increased use of information and communication technologies, increased regional cooperation, and resilience building to withstand external shocks including the effects of climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought.*

Furthermore, I am pleased to share with you that Pirelli Tyre S.p.A, has agreed to take on the role as Corporate Champion for the Private Sector Steering Committee. Mr. Alberto Pirelli, Deputy Chairman will act as the ambassador for the broader business community at High-Level events organized around the Review Conference.

In addition, we have a very good business delegation at the High-Level International Workshop on "WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation: Implications for LLDCs" which will take place in June in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Those participating from the business community include:

- Ms. Olive Z. Kigongo,  
President  
National Chamber of Commerce and industry
- Mr. Suraj Vaidya,  
President  
Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Mrs. Lee Ju Song  
Executive Director



ICC Asia

- Mr. Samba Demberel  
Head  
Mongolia Chamber of Commerce

We are also in discussions with OHRLLS to organize a High-Level lunch during the first Preparatory Committee meeting in June that will take place in New York. Lastly, we have had preliminary discussions with OHRLLS and the UN Global Compact to organize a one-day private sector event during the Review Conference in Vienna this November.

On behalf of the Private Sector Steering Committee, we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to engage in this important process. I can assure you of the Committee's active and respectful participation at every stage of the process.

Thank you