

Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries on its Second session

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my Co-Chair and the Bureau of the PrepCom, we are very pleased to welcome you to the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

The Second UN Conference on the LLDCs, to be held in Vienna, Austria, will be an opportunity to reenergize support for the development of the 32 LLDCs. As you know the landlocked developing countries face fundamental constraints linked to their unfavourable geographical location. As a result they incur much higher transport and other trade transaction costs when compared to other groups of countries. These high costs hamper their efforts to increase productivity, growth, poverty reduction and overall sustainable development. We believe that this is an issue that requires the international community to exercise shared responsibility to support them to address the special needs.

In this session of the PrepCom, we hope that we will progress in negotiating a partnership framework that can take the development agenda of the landlocked developing countries forward. As time available for preparation is short, we need constructive engagement of all stakeholders, working in a spirit of cooperation and compromise, for a successful outcome that will help address the constraints faced by the LLDCs due to their landlockedness.

We all want to make the Vienna Conference a success. We will do our utmost to facilitate that we come up with agreed text for an outcome document in the days ahead.

I thank you.