



SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

“Harnessing International Trade and Investment Opportunities for LLDCs’ Development”, Wednesday, 5 November 2014, 10am – 1pm, Boardroom A

Brief description of the event:

Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and remoteness and isolation from world markets. Their seaborne trade unavoidably depends on transit through other countries thereby making them dependent on the political stability, infrastructure and institutional quality of coastal transit countries. As a result the LLDCs are disadvantaged from fully utilizing trade for their development their international trade still accounts for a very low proportion of about 1.2% of the global trade.

During the interactive thematic debate on “*Harnessing International Trade and Investment Opportunities for LLDCs’ Development*”, panelists will discuss progress, or lack thereof, of LLDCs in advancing their trade agenda, especially within the framework of the multilateral trading system.

List of speakers/lead discussants, moderator and/or chair:

Co-Chairs:

- 1) H.E. Dr. Gervais RUFYIKIRI, Vice-President of BURUNDI
- 2) H.E. Ambassador Eladio LOIZAGA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of PARAGUAY

Keynote Speakers:

- 1) H.E. M. Sunil Bahadur Thapa, Minister of Commerce and Supplies, Nepal
- 2) H.E. M. Robert Sichinga, Minister of Commerce, Trade and industry, Zambia
H.E. M. Gustavo Leite, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Paraguay

Panellists:

- 1) Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- 2) Mr Frederick Yonov Agah, Deputy Director-General of WTO.
- 3) M. Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- 4) M. Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish, Director-General, OFID
- 5) Dr Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, EIF
- 6) Ms Mona Haddad, Manager of the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, World Bank
- 7) Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, ITC
- 8) Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)