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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least  
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and  
Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**

**Statement**

by

**Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya  
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative  
for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing  
Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**at the Second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory  
Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on  
Landlocked Developing Countries**

**Conference Room 2, New York, 2 October 2014**

- **Distinguished Co-Chairs, H.E. Khiane Phansourivong of Laos and H.E Per Thoresson of Sweden**
- **The Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries - Honourable Yamfwa D. Mukanga, Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communications for Zambia**
- **The Representative of Austria, Host of the Second United Nations Conference**
- **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by congratulating Ambassador Per Thoresson, DPR of Sweden, for taking up this responsibility from her predecessor. We have come a long way since the start of the preparations of this important event that we will have in Vienna, Austria.

The journey has been a long one, which started with the preparation of the national reports on the implementation of the Almaty Programme by the LLDCs; the regional review meetings in all the regions – Euro-Asia, Latin America and Africa; the thematic pre-conference events; the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee and now the second meeting. All the stakeholders – the LLDCs, transit countries, development partners, the UN, international and regional organisations, the private sector and many others have contributed to the preparatory process for the conference. The LLDCs in particular have played a lead role in all the process. I applaud the contributions of all the stakeholders to bring us all this far.

As the secretary general of the Conference, I want to express our deep appreciation for the commitment and strong support that all of you have provided to the preparatory process. I particularly thank the leadership

provided by the LLDCs and our host country Austria for their political leadership and full contributions to the preparatory process both on the substantive and the logistical side, including their generous financial support. I also want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all the countries and organisations that have already made or are making a contribution to the LLDC Trust Fund.

Excellencies,

Since the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee this past June, Member States have made progress towards the preparation of the outcome document. I wish to recognize the hard work of the Co-Chairs.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

This second and final PrepCom is a critical milestone as it will lay the groundwork for the historic outcome of the Second UN Conference on the LLDCs. With regards to substantive preparations, I am confident that under your able leadership the PrepCom will continue its negotiations on the outcome document. As we are now a few weeks from the date of the conference, I wish to stress the importance of an early and satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations. I am, confident that all the negotiating parties will be able to bridge their differences and find a common ground to secure an outcome that can successfully deliver results for the development of the LLDCs in the next decade. Let me stress here that Vienna Conference is on LLDCs, but it is a UN conference of all member states. Therefore all have to contribute to its success. Speedy conclusion and concretisation of the outcome will play a critical role in its success. Based on the positive experience of the recently held Third International Conference on SIDS, let us conclude the negotiations here in New York before the conference begins.

We all know that the conference should look forward and make a substantive contribution to bring about the change in the lives of the people in LLDCS, ensure its sustainability and build resilience on a lasting basis. That is what matters most to us all. I may not need to emphasize here that it staking place before shaping up of post 2015 agenda. Therefore I hope your deliberations and outcome will also contribute to mainstream the concerns and expectations of the LLDCs into the global processes.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Moving on to the logistical preparations, I would like to draw your attention to the information note where all the logistical details including visa requirements are explained.

With regard to the conference itself, the Conference will be held in the Vienna International Centre, Vienna. The inaugural ceremony of the Intergovernmental track of the Conference will be held on Monday, 3 November 2014 and feature addresses by the President of Austria, the Secretary General of the United Nations and other key speakers. This will be followed by the plenary and the Committee of the Whole. In addition to the intergovernmental activities, the Conference will feature parallel and side events, a Business and Investment Forum of the private sector track and an exhibition. High-Level Thematic Roundtables will be part of the parallel events and they are on 4 thematic topics, namely: Achieving Structural Transformation of LLDCs` Economies; Regional Integration and Transit Cooperation; LLDC Priorities in the Post 2015 Development Agenda; Harnessing International Trade and Investment Opportunities for LLDC Development.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for reinvigorating global partnership in support of the LLDCs. The Secretary General's Report on the ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action states that despite the progress that the LLDCs have made, they are still facing high trading costs, delays in transit and continue to have challenges in improving their competitiveness and in integrating into global value chains and global markets. There is therefore an urgent need for a holistic and result-oriented outcome that has improved and innovative support measures and mechanisms to assist the LLDCs. It is crucial for the LLDCs to achieve a rapid, inclusive, transformative and sustained economic growth and accelerated poverty eradication. And the outcome of the Conference should facilitate this.

The process of elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda that will determine the global development paradigm for the next decade and a half is already underway. Secretary General has repeatedly said that the post 2015 development agenda should not leave any one behind, it should be transformative and it should ensure a life of dignity and prosperity for all. I hope that the Vienna Conference would help the integration of the development issues of the LLDCs into the Post 2015 development agenda.

Finally, I am confident that under your able leadership this PrepCom will finalise the text of the outcome document. As Secretary-General of the Conference, let me assure you the Secretariat's full support to this preparatory process. I wish you successful deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.