

**Statement by Pakistan Delegation
at the
Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
3-5 November 2014, Vienna, Austria**

Mr. President
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
President of the UN General Assembly Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa
Chair of the LLDCs and Secretary-General of the Conference

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to congratulate the government of Austria for hosting this very important Conference.

We would also like to convey our deepest appreciation to the government of Austria for all the efforts that have been undertaken while preparing for the Conference.

Mr. President

At the outset, let me first associate Pakistan with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Bolivia on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

We attach high importance to the development challenges faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and the associated priorities. These are unique and peculiar, demanding special focus and attention.

We supported and welcomed convening of this Conference, which is essentially a 10 year review of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) and would develop a new common action-oriented strategic framework for the next decade for the LLDCs

The Conference is being convened at a critical juncture when we are set to shape the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda through an intergovernmental negotiation process.

Mr. President

We recognize that the geographical challenges have critically undermined the development potential of the LLDCs.

The worsening economic and development challenges adversely impacted the development discourse of the LLDCs.

Furthermore, the transit neighbors of LLDCs, which are mostly developing countries, have also similar economic circumstances and bear additional burdens from transit activities and its associated financial, infrastructural and social impacts.

Pakistan, being a transit country, remains committed to take all necessary measures to assist LLDCs in overcoming obstacles that impede their development objectives.

However, the requirements of establishing and maintaining efficient transit facilities and infrastructure are of such magnitude that landlocked and transit development countries cannot accomplish much on their own.

Mr. President

The Almaty Programme of Action, adopted in 2003, was the United Nations response to address the special development challenges faced by the LLDCs in a collective and focused manner.

We appreciate that the programme did result in increased growth of GDP and FDI in the LLDCs and improved their ability to participate in international trade.

Although, progress has been made, much needs to be done to make the new Programme of Action effective and meaningful. The challenges have expanded manifold and require a comprehensive and well-calibrated response.

In our view, enhanced connectivity should stand at the core of the new programme of Action, being critical for sustainable growth and development of the LLDCs.

Concerted efforts will be required to develop policies and mechanisms to generate financial and technological resources for promoting enhanced connectivity of the LLDCs.

Effective implementation would call for targeted investments and increased financial assistance from the development partners, donor countries and international financial and development institutions.

Mr. President

Pakistan, as a transit developing country, has ensured effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA).

We remain committed to providing easy, efficient and expeditious transit access to our landlocked neighbors to help them expand their international trade.

Promoting regional connectivity and to make Pakistan a regional transit hub is an integral part and central pillar of our vision for trade and transport sector. Pakistan's location at the crossroads of South, Central and West Asia is indeed helpful in this regard.

To this end, as part of our National Trade Corridor Programme (NTCP), Pakistan is not only improving and upgrading its existing logistics and transport infrastructure including highways and railway system but has also embarked on constructing new road networks, seaports, airports and other related facilities.

Various linkage roads up to Gwadar, a modern port in the South-West of Pakistan, are also being constructed. With the commissioning of the Gwadar port, Pakistan will be able to provide dedicated, efficient and cost effective transit trade and port facilities to our landlocked neighbors including latest facilities for cargo vessels at par with any modern port.

On the services sector, the Government of Pakistan continuously improves and upgrades its customs and border procedures to promote trade facilitation.

Mr. President,

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that Pakistan considers that the outcome of this Conference will play a critical role in addressing the special needs and concerns of the Landlocked Developing States.

We would like to assure you of our full support for a successful outcome of this Conference.

I thank you Mr. President.