

New Zealand Statement

2nd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

3-5 November 2014

Mr President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to be speaking to you today on behalf of the government of New Zealand.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Austria for hosting this important Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

The work of this Conference is critical to the broader challenge of elaborating and finalising the post-2015 agenda for global economic, social, and environmental development.

Addressing the needs of countries in special situations is critical to the success of this new agenda.

Recent conferences on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and this Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, remind us of the challenges faced by some of the world's most vulnerable states, and provide opportunities to begin addressing these challenges, particularly through new Programmes of Action and strengthened partnerships.

Mr President

We learnt from the SIDS Conference in Samoa that, while it's important to highlight and debate the challenges that vulnerable countries face, it's even more important to take concrete action to address those challenges.

While the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries provides a comprehensive listing of the actions required to address their challenges, no one country or institution is in a position to implement all of these actions.

In Samoa, we focused on creating genuine and durable partnerships to deliver on SIDS' priorities. This approach provides a model that could also deliver for Landlocked Developing Countries.

Partnerships can come in all shapes and sizes.

While they must be led by the countries themselves, partnerships can involve any permutation of Member States, UN agencies, regional and international organisations, local government, civil society, foundations and the private sector.

No partnership is too small to count, but what is essential is that each has clear targets, concrete outputs, planned outcomes and a specific timeline.

These features will enable us to monitor progress, not just with the particular actions that each partnership addresses, but with the comprehensive Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. They will enable us to identify gaps in implementing the Programme of Action, and hopefully lead to the formation of new partnerships to address these gaps.

Mr President

It is the responsibility of all Member States to work with Landlocked Developing Countries – each according to our means.

For New Zealand, which is a long way from most Landlocked Developing Countries, this means identifying partners with whom we can work to deliver in areas where we have a particular comparative advantage. Agriculture is one such area. Trade capacity building is another.

Together with South Africa, we recently hosted a workshop on *Food Safety Systems for Export* targeted at the fifteen members of the Southern African Development Community, many of whom are landlocked, as well as Kenya and Uganda. The aim was to enhance countries' capacity for intra-regional and international trade in agricultural and fisheries products.

The workshop highlighted the importance of regional solutions to the challenges faced by Landlocked and other vulnerable developing countries. The recommendations of the workshop included:

- advancing regionally-agreed food control policies and standards, and the development of mutual recognition arrangements;
- promoting regionally-recognised institutions that underpin regional food control systems such as Co-operation Councils, Accreditation Bodies and training institutes;
- increasing confidence in assurances provided by each other's competent authorities through greater collaboration and improved transparency.

Our efforts in sanitary, phytosanitary, good agricultural practices and cross border trade capacity building in the Greater Mekong Subregion through the Mekong Institute in Thailand, have aimed to help Lao PDR and its neighbours with their integration into the broader ASEAN community.

These are but two small examples where New Zealand has been able to work in partnership with regional institutions to respond to the needs of Landlocked Developing Countries in areas where New Zealand is able to add value.

In closing, may I emphasise again the importance of each of us, according to our means, taking concrete and measurable action to respond to the challenges that Landlocked Developing Countries face.

Thank you.