

STATEMENT BY MR. NGUYEN MANH TUAN
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DELEGATION AT THE 2ND UN CONFERENCE ON THE LLDCS
(3-5th November 2014, Vienna)

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to express appreciation to the Government of Austria for their excellent arrangements of the Conference. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. I am confident that under your able leadership, our conference would be of great success.

Mr. President,

We noted with satisfaction that economic growth has been accelerated in landlocked developing countries: since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth; during the period 2003-2013, total exports from landlocked developing countries grew from US\$44 billion in 2003 to US\$228 billion in 2013. The value of imports has also increased from \$50 billion to \$142 billion during the same period. The global share of LLDCs' merchandise export has doubled in the last decade.

Although the world economy has slowly recovered from impacts of the 2008-2009 financial crises, this progress remains uneven, unstable and unsustainable. Underperformance in the world economy is observed across almost all regions and major economic groups. A number of emerging economies are experiencing a notable slowdown in recent years. In addition, regional political instability, climate change, diseases, food and energy security are posing serious challenges to the world economy. Due to the global financial crisis, the group of LLDCs continues to face challenges that undermine their achievements and efforts.

The global financial crisis has also shown that sustainable economic development and international cooperation must be prioritized while ensuring undifferentiated treatment towards merchandise from developing countries. In this regard, Vietnam is delighted to see increasing support for LLDCs at sub-regional, regional and international levels. LLDCs and their special needs and vulnerabilities are all specifically mentioned in the Millennium Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and take into account in the global process of defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

In our region, regional cooperative initiatives involving LLDCs and their development partners have been implemented, notably the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the ASEAN Initiative for Integration which aims at a well-connected community. South-South cooperation should also be considered as one of the key development enablers. Through enhanced physical infrastructure, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, regional connectivity will be further strengthened, thus linking the national to the global level.

In the Southeast Asia sub-region, LLDCs have actively participated in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) program and the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC). Connecting four countries Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, the Corridor provides an opportunity for socio-economic development and poverty eradication. Progress has been recognized in building the EWEC infrastructure. For example, Vietnam and Laos are implementing the “one door-one stop” model at Lao Bao-Densavanh border gates to facilitate goods transport and boost cooperation among localities along the Corridor.

Mr. President,

From Vietnam’s experience, we realize that domestic reform and international integration are powerful drivers of fast and sustainable growth. Viet Nam is determined to accelerate economic restructuring, improve

market economy institutions and promote active integration. Viet Nam attaches great importance to regional connectivity, a fundamental factor for development and shared prosperity of the region. We believe existing regional and international cooperative frameworks and mechanisms represent a major opportunity for countries, especially LLDCs, to increase their competitiveness, open new markets.

Viet Nam fully supports that concerns and special needs of LLDCs should be given special attention in international agendas. As a transit country, Viet Nam is committed to work with LLDCs countries towards a better regional and international connectivity and integration so as to achieve sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the forum for 2nd LLDCs today, Vietnam would like to take this opportunity to once again emphasize the importance of marine-time security in promoting international trade and economic cooperation among nations of the world. We, therefore, call on countries to double efforts to consolidate peaceful and stable environment for cooperation and development, to ensure free and safe maritime transportation and navigation through fully respecting of international law and regional commitments and to forge our shared path to a world of peace, stability and prosperity.

I wish Mr. President and you all good health and happiness. Wish our Conference a great success.

Thank you for your kind attention./.