

II LLDCs CONFERENCE - BRAZIL'S STATEMENT

[At the outset, we extend to the President of this Conference congratulations on his election.]

The Brazilian delegation would like to thank the Government of Austria for hosting this conference. We recognize in Austria an invaluable partner and a country that has much to offer in the way of best practices and successful experiences that may be useful for LLDCs.

We welcome Under-Secretary General Gyan Chandra Acharya's appointment as Secretary-General of this Conference. Ambassadors Khiane Phansourivong, from Laos, and Per Thöresson, from Sweden, deserve our gratitude and recognition for having guided member States towards the outcome document.

We take this opportunity to convey to the Government and people of Zambia our deep condolences for the death of President Michael Sata.

Mr. President,

Since 2003, when the Almaty Program of Action was launched, much progress has taken place in the LLDCs. However, the 2008 economic and financial crisis and the slow, uneven recovery since then have posed considerable challenges to their development efforts, including with regard to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by next year.

We are now gathered in Vienna to take a bolder step, with the launching of a new and comprehensive program of action that is meant to guide the development efforts of LLDCs over the next decade. The Brazilian Government is honored to have actively participated in consultations on this ambitious and important document. We would like to thank all members for their constructive engagement throughout the negotiation process in New York as well as here in Vienna.

The new and forward-looking Program of Action we are adopting reflects the significant evolution in development cooperation since Almaty. It responds to recent changes in the international landscape, and points towards new promising perspectives, as we approach the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and the launching of the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Vienna Program of Action addresses a significant number of issues pertaining to the challenges LLDCs must overcome to ensure their right to development.

The Vienna Program of Action sets a new level of commitments and a new standard of follow-up to its implementation, based on action-oriented initiatives and evidence-based monitoring and assessment. Its structure and

content resemble the commendable work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, based on the definition of specific and concrete measures for implementation. Its innovative format and ambitious scope will contribute to integrating the specific needs of LLDCs into the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

The new Program of Action recognizes the significant contribution that South-South cooperation can make in supporting the development efforts of LLDCs. While this element was not present in Almaty, it now figures prominently in the new section on means of implementation of the outcome document, adequately reflecting the spirit of solidarity and cooperation among equals that guides relations between developing countries. However, for years to come, ODA will remain the centerpiece for mobilizing indispensable financial flows to LLDCs.

The Vienna Program reiterates, in this regard, the call on development partners to urgently fulfill their ODA commitments to developing countries, especially LLDCs.

Under a different framework, South-South cooperation plays a complementary but increasingly important role, promoting closer ties and integration between LLDCs and their transit neighbors.

Mr. President,

The Vienna Program of Action can be considered a substantive step forward. Landlockedness causes greater external vulnerabilities, which cannot be overcome by trade facilitation measures alone, as important and central they certainly are.

Broader issues need to be addressed, such as structural economic transformation, the development of energy and ICT infrastructure, and international trade and finance from a systemic point of view.

Landlockedness is a structural condition countries cannot "graduate" from. This is why "Structural Economic Transformation" as a stand-alone priority of the Vienna Program of Action is so important. It establishes a basis for supporting sustained productivity gains and domestic economic growth in LLDCs, promoting value-addition and diversification.

Mr. President,

The WTO Bali package of last December should be fully implemented as soon as possible, and the WTO needs to swiftly move towards a final conclusion of the Doha Round, fully delivering on its development-oriented

mandate. Provisions on agriculture are key in this respect. This is where the gains are higher for a majority of developing countries including many LLDCS.

Facilitated accession to the WTO for landlocked developing countries, as well as adequate treatment of their specific needs in multilateral and regional trade negotiations are vital. We hope these issues can be more adequately addressed in future reviews. We call on developed countries to continue working on them in Geneva. The WTO must take the lead in defining multilateral rules for transit transport, including provisions for special and differential treatment.

Mr. President,

The Brazilian Government attaches great importance to addressing the specific challenges facing LLDCs, particularly in South America. We have consistently worked together with our neighbors, Bolivia and Paraguay, on key issues emphasized by the outcome document of this Conference.

Brazil is a transit country for Paraguay, with whom we maintain close and mutually beneficial relations, including through projects at the bilateral and sub-regional levels, aimed at improving our neighbor's access to the sea. With regard to Bolivia, let me mention that in 2012 work was concluded on a highway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through its territory, a cooperation project implemented by Bolivia, Brazil and Chile.

Both Bolivia and Paraguay are invaluable partners in regional integration processes in South America. Paraguay is a founding member of MERCOSUR. Bolivia, an Associate Member since 1997, signed an Accession Protocol in 2012. In 2007, MERCOSUR launched a Trust Fund for Structural Convergence, which now has a portfolio of US\$ 1.4 billion. This Fund has supported key infrastructure projects in Paraguay, like the construction of power lines and roads.

UNASUR, the Union of South American Nations, has created a South American Infrastructure and Planning Council, which has been implementing an Agenda of Integration Projects with high potential for generating synergies in the region, such as road links between Paraguay and Bolivia and ports in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

Mr. President,

In closing, I would like to reaffirm Brazil's commitment and full alignment with the outcome document we are about to adopt. We will continue working with LLDCs bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally, including in the post-2015 scenario towards the shared goal of sustainable development.