

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, MP, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 2ND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

3 NOVEMBER 2014

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**Check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

As we mourn the passing of H.E. Micheal Sata, President of the Republic of Zamibia, Namibia offers its sincere condolences and expresses its deepest sympathy to the people and government of Zambia. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**Mr. President
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset, let me extend my Government's appreciation for the invitation to attend this Second United Nations Conference on Land Locked Developing Countries. We would also like to express our gratitude to the people and the government of Austria for hosting this conference and to congratulate you Mr. President as the Chair of this Conference.

Namibia welcomes the convening of this Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries since it represents an important opportunity to Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donors and International Financial and Development Institutions to evaluate the implementation of the of Almaty Program of Action (APoA) on addressing the special needs of LLDCs as well as provide a new program of action that complements and broadens what has been achieved. The new plan should also aim to eradicate poverty, enhance

competitiveness and productive capacities and ensure a better future for people living in LLDCs.

The Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) have specific needs and problems due to their geographical location such as the lack of access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from major international markets and high transport costs.

At the same time Coastal developing countries also need to develop necessary capacities to enable them provide the necessary services to the LLDSs.

Mr President,

Industrialization is critical not only for Namibia economic development but also for its neighbors in particular LLDCs. Namibia has come up with a long term plan, Vision 2030, which articulates the country's aspirations of becoming an industrialized country. Vision 2030 is being implemented through the five year mid-term plans well known National Development Plan NDP

Currently, Namibia is in a process of implanting the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4). NDP4 outlines prioritized policies and programmes for a period of five years to the year 2017. One of the desired outcomes of NDP4 is to enable Namibia to take a share of the regional logistics and distribution market, consistent with the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action, which calls upon

States to implement measures to strengthen cooperative and collaborative efforts to address transit transport issues.

In order to realise the desired outcome of becoming a regional logistic hub, Namibia has endeavored to pursue high level strategies and actions such as having a share regional market in respect of international transportation. Such strategies include among others, the upgrading and expansion of the infrastructure needed to accommodate increased trade flows.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has commissioned a Project on a Master Plan for the Development of an International Logistics Hub to service SADC Countries and beyond, known as “The Namibia Logistics Master Plan”. The Plan, which is a component of the Transport Master Plan, aims to establish a development framework and strategies to make Namibia a strong regional logistics centre, with a special attention to provide services to LLDCs.

Moreover, in the spirit of working closer wth Landlocked Developing Countries and also to facilitate trade for LLDCs and the region at large, Namibia has offered dry ports to Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and DRC at no cost. These dry ports are in the process of being operationalized. It is also important to note that Namibia is also connected by bitumen roads to all its neighbors. The recent signed

agreement between Namibia and Botswana for the construction of a railway line to the port of Walvis Bay will further facilitate trade and market access for Botswana and contribute to the realization of vision 2030. All these efforts are being implemented within our national policy of public private partnership.

Mr. President,

Challenges such as concentrated economies, vulnerability to climate change and climate variability, land degradation and desertification, are undermining the economic potential of many LLDCs. That is even exacerbated by the fact that coastal developing countries face the same challenges that needs to be addressed for necessary support to be made available to the LLDCs by the transit countries.

The Rio+20 UN Conference in 2012 resolved to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the time frame beyond 2015. Many lessons can be learned from the MDGs that could influence the next set of SDGs beyond 2015. SDGs needs to build on the successes and challenges of the current MDGs.MDGs should also address the special needs of landlocked developing countries. In this regard, meeting the targets of the MDGs at the global level, therefore, requires progress in these countries.

Namibia reaffirms the global recognition that the eradication of poverty is the greatest challenge facing humanity which must be effectively addressed in the Post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, there is need to have a coherent and integrated approach to the Post-2015 Development Agenda formulation, taking into account lessons-learned, conditions, and national priorities and policies of our respective countries.

Against that background, Namibia believes that the post 2015 agenda should address the needs of the LLDCs. Hence our full support for the Africa Common Position on the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

To urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries, we call upon the international community, including donor countries, to strengthen their assistance through a genuine partnership and provide necessary resources to help the LLDCs to effectively implement the priorities of the successor programme to the Almaty Programme of Action.

In conclusion, Mr. President, as the international community, prepares to undertake a review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, it is the hope of my delegation that the outcome of this conference will greatly contribute to that process, accelerate the mobilization of

adequate resources and create a better environment for the implementation of the 2014-2024 Programme of Action for LLDCs

I thank you.

