

STATEMENT

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The 2nd UN Conference on LLDCs

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to address this august audience by reaffirming the overarching scope that defines this Conference: to look back at the 10 years of cooperation since the LLDCs constitution, delineate successes and setbacks, consolidate partnerships and build solid ties for development cooperation in order to continue to address the special needs of Land Locked Developing Countries.

In our interconnected environment, the economic performance and the sustainable development of landlocked developing countries are directly impacted by several external factors, including those of political and security nature. In this connection, the scope of LLDC shall look at building resilient economies, stable political and social relations which are able to withstand and prevent emerging crises and external shocks.

As a responsible member of the international community with strong European integration aspirations, my country embraces entirely the principles of International Law governing the international economic relations. The universal respect for those principles, as well as transparency and accountability is key for building sound trade relations across countries and regions.

Distinguished colleagues,

In recent years, the Government of the Republic of Moldova concentrated its efforts to develop trade relations with its partners based on trust and accountability. Nevertheless, Moldova is repeatedly confronted with shuttered trade relations that hinder our development efforts. This year, as a result of the ban on wine exports and restrictions on several agricultural products imposed by the Russian Federation, the Government had to adopt urgent measures to compensate for the damages and losses incurred by local farmers and producers. Just to bring you one evocative example: from the beginning of last year, the total volume of wine production decreased by over 28% which significantly impacted the GDP and the financial sustainability of the country.

In order to prevent the occurrence of similar economic downturns in the future, the Government seeks to diversify its trade market and succeeded to agree with its western partners on the complete liberalization of the wine market with the EU and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement as an intrinsic part of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement ratified by the

national Parliament in July this year. With this, new perspectives for the better integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European and world markets are opened, with all the benefits it brings.

We expect that the free trade area and the through institutional reforms will attract investors and spur economic growth. The Government has already launched a series of reforms aimed at supporting the private sector; strengthening the productive capacity, improving the access to the market, improving fiscal policies, ensuring the protection of human rights and health, and many more.

Furthermore, a number of actions to rehabilitate infrastructure, including the national main roads have been undertaken. Beginning with 2009, about 10% of the national roads were completely renovated; another 10% are currently under rehabilitation. Our aim is to accelerate this process through the enforcement of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy by 2022 and the consolidation of the National Road Fund. International partnerships have been and continue to be instrumental in developing and implementing such complex infrastructure projects.

In addition to that, consistent efforts are being made in order to develop the International Giurgiulesti Free Port - the only one in the country operational since 2006 and accessible for maritime ships, having the potential to turn into a new important commercial hub for the region.

Last September, the first escarpment rail trail was opened at this Port, connecting our country to the EU rail infrastructure. This is yet another strategic opening for expanding trade and transportation activities on railroad.

These measures leading us to the modernization of the country and the democratization of all aspects of life, based on the rule of law, are likely, as we earnestly believe, to achieve another vital national objective which is the territorial reintegration of the country based on the full respect for its internationally recognized borders. The reinstatement of the constitutional rule over the whole territory of the country is fundamental for the conduct of lawful and transparent commercial activities and avoid all sorts of trafficking in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Landlocked Developing Countries continue to face significant constraints in conducting trade relations because of poor infrastructure, increased costs for transportation and limited access to world markets.

The Almaty Programme of Action sets forth an effective platform to advance the LLDCs priorities and raise awareness about the vulnerabilities, but also about the tremendous potential for commercial exchanges, economic diversification and cooperation opportunities with LLDCs. The support of the international community for the implementation of this Programme of Action with a result oriented approach is of essence.

The Republic of Moldova remains committed to contribute to streamlining, promoting and implementing the LLDCs Programme of Action and is open for lucrative and business oriented partnerships in the future.

I thank you.