

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UN OFFICE IN VIENNA HER
EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR BİRNUR FERTEKLİGİL AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Vienna, 4 November 2014

Madame/Mister Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the people and the government of Zambia for the demise of His Excellency Michael Sata, the President of Zambia.

Madame/Mister Chairperson,

Please allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of this Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership, our deliberations will bear fruitful results. Our congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to the United Nations for its services towards the Land Locked Developing States and to Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Secretary General of this Conference and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing States and Small Island Developing States.

Moreover, let me take this opportunity to thank the government of Austria and its people for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in organizing this Conference.

Madame/Mister Chairperson,

Almaty Ministerial Conference in 2003 was of historic importance since it was the first international meeting to address the special development challenges faced by Landlocked Developing Countries. After 11 years, we have now gathered to review the progress made on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and to set a new development agenda for LLDCs.

It is quite timely to hold this conference in 2014, as we approach the deadline to meet Millennium Development Goals next year. Although LLDCs made some progress in the attainment of the MDGs, unfortunately there is growing evidence that the group will not achieve many of the Goals by 2015. Therefore, while we draft a new set of universal development goals for the next decades we should complete the unfinished business of MDGs. In the meantime, special attention should also be given to the new and emerging challenges for LLDCs, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States linked to climate change, environmental degradation, and food and energy security. Views and concerns of LLDCs, as well as Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States must be reflected in the post 2015 development agenda.

Universal recognition of the special challenges and needs of LLDCs is a remarkable achievement of the Almaty Programme of Action. The last ten years have seen stronger support from development partners towards transport infrastructure development and trade facilitation, and support from transit countries to harmonize transport and transit policies, simplify border controls and facilitate trade. Flows of official development assistance have increased, as well as foreign direct investments and "Aid for Trade" disbursements. Since 2003, LLDCs achieved higher growth rates, albeit with

fluctuations linked to global financial and economic crisis. The LLDCs as a group have recorded better trade performances. However, the share of the group in global trade is still modest at around 1 per cent in 2010, showing continued marginalization of the LLDCs from the world economy.

In view of the continuing difficulties, it is obviously clear why this Conference is of paramount importance to LLDCs. This conference is expected to provide a successor programme of action that would address the development challenges of LLDCs in a more holistic and coherent manner, with the overarching goals of enhancing competitiveness, promoting structural transformation, reaching high levels of inclusive economic growth and development that manifests faster reduction in poverty and greater prosperity.

In this regard, there is an urgent need for the global community to forge a common front in tackling the various challenges faced by LLDCs in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. In particular, the Conference should offer an opportunity to develop, renew and enhance effective and mutually beneficial partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours and development partners.

Parallel to this approach, Turkey has always been ready for cooperative and mutually beneficial relations between landlocked and transit countries in order to create an effective framework for overcoming the specific challenges of the LLDCs.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As a developing country itself, Turkey has been furthering its efforts with a view to sharing its own development experiences and contributing to international development cooperation as a whole. Turkey's official development assistance has reached 3.3 billion USD in 2013. Total amount of official development assistance that Turkey has extended to LLDCs between 2008 and 2013 reached 377 million USD. This includes projects undertaken by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, TİKA in the fields of health, education and transport. Bilateral trade volume between Turkey and LLDCs as a group has increased almost 8 times since 2003. The volume of Turkey's imports from LLDC group has exceeded 7.5 million USD, while it was just around 782 thousand USD in 2003. Turkey's investments in LLDCs reached almost 5.8 billion USD.

On the multilateral front, as part of the TRACECA intergovernmental programme, Turkey contributes to the efforts to establish a transportation corridor linking landlocked countries of Central Asia and Caucasus to European transportation network.

In view of the fact that almost half of LLDCs are Least Developed Countries, let me also reiterate that Turkey is ready to host the Mid-term Review Conference of the İstanbul Programme of Action adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Taking this opportunity I would like to remind that Turkey's Economic and Technical Cooperation Package which envisages the allocation of 200 million USD annually for technical cooperation projects in the Least Developed Countries continues to be available for projects in the fields of health, education and transport. Turkey's national development agency, TİKA, is in charge of the evaluation and implementation of such project proposals which can be forwarded through diplomatic channels.

Turkey would also be very pleased to host the Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting Mechanism dedicated to Least Developed Countries. Turkey has committed to make a contribution of 200.000 Dollars for its feasibility study as well.

Moreover, I would like to draw attention to the opportunities offered by the İstanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, which was established by UNDP and Turkey in 2011. This

Center builds on Turkey's convening power and dynamic private sector as well as UNDP's global mandate to engage the private sector constructively in supporting the global and local efforts to address development challenges.

Madame Chairperson,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to state that development issues will have a central role in the agenda of the Turkish G-20 Presidency in 2015. Particular focus will be given to addressing the challenges faced by Least Developed Countries, LLDCs and Small Island Developing States, and promoting their integration into the world economy through concrete, growth-oriented actions. In this respect, development and low income countries will be a cross-cutting agenda item for most work streams in G-20 under Turkish Presidency.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Turkey's support to LLDC Group in calling upon the international community to take full advantage of our deliberations during this conference to better develop the framework for advancing the LLDC agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention.