

**Statement to the 2nd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
H.E. Mark Bailey, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada
to the International Organizations in Vienna
Vienna, Austria, November 5, 2014**

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Distingués Délégués,

Comme ma délégation a l'occasion de prendre la parole pour la première fois, je tiens d'abord à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence. Nous vous souhaitons un plein succès dans l'exercice de vos fonctions importantes et nous ferons tout notre possible pour vous soutenir tout au long de ce processus.

Je tiens également à remercier le gouvernement autrichien pour sa générosité en acceptant d'être l'hôte de cette rencontre. C'est grâce aux efforts de planification et d'organisation, ainsi qu'aux ressources, investis par nos hôtes autrichiens, de même que l'accueil chaleureux reçu, que nous avons pu nous concentrer sur les questions graves et importantes qui touchent les pays en développement sans littoral.

Je tiens également à souligner tout le temps et le travail consacrés à ce processus par les délégués à New York. Leurs discussions approfondies sur ce à quoi devraient ressembler ces pays, en tant que groupe, au cours des dix prochaines années se sont avérées indispensables. Ces négociations n'ont certes pas été faciles, mais elles nous ont certainement permis d'avancer vers un document final que tous les États membres des Nations Unies devraient trouver utile pour fixer des priorités, agir et mesurer les progrès au cours des prochaines années.

Now, Mr. President, please allow me to make some general reflections on this process, both past and future.

The Almaty Programme, though established back in 2003, has served us well by acknowledging and setting firmly in view the unique development challenges and burdens of landlocked countries in the 21st century. The Almaty Programme had serious and practical objectives that all Member-States – whether landlocked, transit, or otherwise – could get behind and use as the basis for enduring partnerships.

Time moves on however, and there has been remarkable change over the past eleven years in terms of the opportunities and challenges faced by LLDCs. While the Vienna Programme of Action takes these changes into account, we also need to set our sights squarely on the foremost challenges that LLDCs face, or risk getting lost in the details.

Under the Vienna Programme, we need to promote an approach to international development cooperation with LLDCs that is in step with the trends we now see as integral to development and sustainable growth: working with new partners, and mobilizing innovative sources of financing to promote real development results.

We are aware that LLDCs have already made important gains in partnerships with their neighbours, especially transit countries. We would point to this as an example of an effective strategy that places common interests and partnerships at its core.

One of our tasks in the implementation of the Vienna Programme is to resist the idea that "more is better." We should focus on the specific challenges of LLDCs, rather than on broader development issues that are being dealt with in other fora. All of us are aware of the significant diplomatic processes underway as we head into 2015 and beyond, and we should not pre-judge their outcomes.

To reiterate an important message that we have already heard from other speakers, LLDCs *must* be a strong presence in these various diplomatic processes and ensure that their voices are heard. They must ensure their message is succinct and audible in upcoming dialogues on development, in decisions on how to measure progress in health, education, economic growth, and in fostering resilience to all manner of shocks.

These are areas closely tied to the stumbling blocks that *all* developing countries face, and notably those that are landlocked and their neighbours.

In closing, Mr. President, let me say again how much my delegation has appreciated the opportunity to come together to discuss these important issues and to leverage this process towards the achievement of our common development goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.