

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**  
**Second United Nations Conference on**  
**Landlocked Developing Countries**  
3-5 November 2014, Vienna, Austria

**Mr. President,**

**On behalf of Philippine Government, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations on your election as the President of the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. My delegation assures you and your bureau of its support as you provide leadership to our collective task of a comprehensive review on the implementation of the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action and, and building on this, of moving forward to an action programme for the next decade.**

**The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.**

**Mr. President,**

**The outcome of this high level meeting is awaited with keen interest by the 32 landlocked least developing countries (LLDCs) and their 443 million constituencies. In the race to wealth, no one should be left behind.**

**Private business may be in a frenzy to outsmart rivals in the global marketplace. Developed countries may be pursuing competitiveness with a passion. Developing countries may be**

**gripped by the desire to expand their meager market shares. But even in the face of all this, we must never renege on our collective responsibility to guarantee the rightful place of LLDCs in global growth.**

**The 2013 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action indicates progress in the performance of several LLDCs in the economic and social fields. There have been improvements in gender equality and empowerment, literacy rates, education enrollment and stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS. As to integration into the world economy, LLDCs' share of world exports doubled between 2003 and 2013, and export times have been reduced from 49 to 41 days between 2005 and 2013.**

**However, although LLDCs are making some progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the report adds that there is growing evidence that the group will not achieve many of the Goals by 2015. The geographical problems facing the landlocked developing countries are further exacerbated by emerging challenges, including external shocks.**

**As we build on the existing MDGs and set the stage for the new development agenda with a strong focus on poverty reduction and human well-being, it is important to ensure that the needs of LLDCs are given special attention.**

**Mr President,**

**The Philippines deems essential the strengthened partnerships within the context of North-South cooperation, South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as partnerships with relevant international organizations and the private sector, in addressing the special needs of LLDCs.**

**We recognize the growing role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as demonstrated by the increasing economic dynamism of some developing countries in recent years, including through, *inter alia*, regional integration initiatives across the developing world. The Philippines itself provides modest South-South cooperation especially for the Least Developed Countries through the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines.**

**Mr President,**

**We also wish to emphasize that the achievement of sustained growth by the LLDCs, calls for strong partnerships with their neighbors in particular. This is exemplified by our own regional experience.**

**When the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), made up originally of robust economies, expanded to include four less developed countries, one of which is an LLDC, we**

launched the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, complemented by the Vientiane Plan of Action, to avoid a widening gap in economic growth among member countries. Both of these action plans lead to the achievement of the long-standing commitment by the ten Member States of ASEAN to establish an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and to transform ASEAN into a well-connected community, bringing peoples, goods, services and capital closer together. But in ASEAN, we do things gradually. Those ASEAN members that are better prepared will kick-start the initiatives, with the circle widening as and when other member economies are ready to join.

An enhanced ASEAN Connectivity requires support for physical infrastructure like highways, airports and rail links, power grids and gas pipelines. The designated roads and highways of the Member States forming the ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) are being physically connected. All the protocols on the liberalization of air services under the ASEAN Open Skies Policy for both cargo and passenger services have been concluded and implemented by most Member States. And we continue to operationalize key transport facilitation agreements, including ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport (AFAFIST), and ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT), to reduce the costs of moving goods across borders.

All these efforts are not only aimed at narrowing the

**development gap among Member States, but they are also addressing the special needs of the Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Least Developed Country in ASEAN.**

**ASEAN's regional story shows that we must not leave anyone behind in our quest to improve our economies and our peoples' standards of living. As a founding and active member of ASEAN, the Philippines will continue to ensure that our programs place every member firmly on a common road to growth.**

**Thank you.**

