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Official side event of the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCS)

Improving Trade and Transport Integration for Landlocked Developing Countries: A Ten-Year Review

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 8.15am-9.45am

Venue: Room MOE79, Vienna International Centre

Event Concept: Since the Almaty Program of Action was introduced in 2003, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) have achieved incremental gains in improving their trade and transport connectivity. Yet, LLDCs still experience considerably higher trade costs - a mark-up of about 70% ad valorem equivalent - when compared with transit coastal countries. LLDCs have focused on strengthening their stock of 'hard' infrastructure while also directing increased policy attention towards 'soft' interventions including creating competitive transport service markets, improving integration with transit neighbors, and modernizing customs systems.

To take stock of progress during the past decade, UN-OHRLLS and the World Bank Group undertook an empirical study. This launch event will provide insights on questions including:

- What trade or transport constraints had greatest impact on LLDC trade costs in 2004-2014?
- What role has transport and logistics sector reform played in improving connectivity?
- Does recent LLDC experience hold out 'success stories' that can inform future policy?

All participants at the Second UN Conference on LLDCs are invited to attend the launch of this important new study, and to join an interactive Q&A to debate future priorities on LLDC connectivity.

Agenda

- 8.15am **Welcome and introduction:** Mr. Pierre Guislain, Senior Director for Transport and ICT, World Bank
- 8.20am **Keynote remarks:** Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, High Representative and Under-Secretary-General, UN-OHRLLS
- 8.30am: **Presentation of joint publication:** Ms. Mona Haddad (Practice Manager, World Bank), Ms. Karlygash Dairabayeva (Economist, World Bank)
- 8.55am: **Remarks from the panel:**
- Hon. Mr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Minister of Transport, Ethiopia
 - Hon. Mr. Kalykbek Sultanov, Minister of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyzstan
 - Hon. Mr. Sunil Bahadur Thapa, Minister of Commerce and Supplies, Nepal (tbc)
 - Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, UN-OHRLLS
- 9.25am: **Q&A** chaired by Mr. Guislain