

As Delivered



Statement

by

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and

Secretary-General

**of the Second United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing
Countries**

**Second United Nations Conference on
the Landlocked Developing Countries**

Closing Session

Vienna, Austria

05 November 2014

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Mr. Sebastian Kurz, and
President of the Conference,

Your Excellency Honourable Yamfwa Mukanga, Minister of Transport,
Works, Supply and Communications of Zambia and Chair of the Group of
LLDCs,

Excellencies Ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this Closing Session of the Second
United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries. Allow
me first to convey my deep appreciation to all of you for your great
contribution to the success of the Conference.

The last three days have been intense but productive. Member States,
parliaments, international and regional organizations, civil society and the
private sector have come together in the Plenary of the Conference, in four
high-level interactive roundtables, in nineteen side events, in the business and
investment forum and other meetings to exchange views on how best to move
forward the LLDC development agenda to fulfil the aspirations of their
people.

It is the culmination of our joint efforts. We have created yet another
milestone here in Vienna by successfully holding this conference for LLDCs.

I said it a successful conference based on a number of things. First, the level of participation at high level, including that of heads of state and many ministers, second, the number of countries who participated including the LLDCs, transit and development partners and institutions, and third, clear visions, constructive ideas and free and frank interactive discussions during the high level round tables, and in depth analysis, best practices and solutions were duly focused on many side events including in the private sector. Last but not least the outcome document.

The recently adopted Vienna Programme of Action and Political Declaration, is reflective of the solidarity, understanding and spirit of cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders.

There was an anticipation for the Vienna conference to be holistic, forward looking and action oriented. I clearly see that in the document, you have just adopted.

It is holistic for taking up transit, trade, infrastructure and adding together with them the regional cooperation, structural transformation and coherence with the global processes in a pronounced manner as priorities.

Forward looking, while recognizing the special challenges and vulnerabilities of LLDCs, you have stressed on turning landlocked countries into land linked countries and how best LLDCs can reap full benefits from regional cooperation and globalization.

Action oriented. You have clearly spelt out actions to be taken by LLDCs, transit countries and development partners in each of the six priority areas

with clear national, regional and global level implementation, monitoring and review.

Underpinning all of this is that the programme stresses renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and development partners and also within the context of North South as well as South-South and Triangular cooperation, and those with the relevant international and regional organisations and between public and private sector actors. It also stresses that the special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries be recognized and be given appropriate consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

They are your collective guidance to all of us for the next decade. We will implement the new programme of action with equally strong resolve with full support, cooperation and solidarity of you all.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the international support and commitments contained in the Vienna Programme of Action, the Conference has also served as a platform to start a number of initiatives and programmes in support of LLDC's long-term development.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at this juncture to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the heads of state and government, Vice President and deputy prime ministers, ministers,

PGA, UN Secretary General, heads of UN organizations, and regional commissions, Heads of other international organizations, ICC, UN Global Compact, private sector participants, civil society, parliamentarians and academia for their contributions.

Let me also thank the Vice Presidents and Rapporteur for their contributions. I would like to commend Sweden and Lao PDR for their excellent steering of the intergovernmental consultations during the prepcoms and for Sweden working all the way here. I also thank Zambia for leading the LLDC Group as its chair. Paraguay and other members of the bureau also deserve thanks for their respective roles. All the member states deserve our appreciation for commitment, understanding and solidarity. We count on your continued engagement and leadership in supporting the development efforts of LLDCs, and in ensuring the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the days ahead.

Our Special thanks go to our gracious host, Government and the people of Austria, for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival and for the excellent arrangements. Hosting this Conference is a vivid expression of strong commitment and contribution to the noble cause of sustainable development of LLDCs.

I sincerely thank you Hon. Foreign Minister for leading all of us with your personal commitment, solidarity and support. Your cabinet, State Secretary Linhardt, Peter Laufnsky, Raimund and from New York Ambassador Martin and DPR Andreas and your protocol and security officials of the Austrian government provided outstanding support to us. Also thank Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, city administration and people of Vienna for their support.

I would also like to thank my own colleagues, at my office and all those who have come from New York, My colleague Catherine Pollard and her team from DGACM for navigating us through the conference management.

From Vienna, I thank Mr. Fedotov, DG of UNOV and through him to all various teams of conference facilities, logistics, DPI, OICT, documentation, Protocol, interpretation, security services. I would also like to thank the young volunteers for ensuring the smooth logistical arrangements of the conference.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, let me reiterate the following.

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We will try to make sure that that will happen with our diligent follow up and implementation by all.

A quote from Robert Frost may be pertinent here. “These woods are lovely, dark and deep, but we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep, and miles to go before we sleep”.

Our other journey begins from here today. Our destination is now clear. And we are all looking forward towards what John Bunyan said a shining city upon a hill for all. With solidarity and commitment, it is not only doable, but it is immensely desirable, for 440 million people of LLDCs, and also for the international community as a whole.

I thank you for your contributions and participation and wish you all safe journey back home.