

Statement by
Mr. Yiping Zhou
Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and
Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
On the occasion of the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
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It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of Mr. Yiping Zhou, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the world considers the new contours of a post-2015 development agenda, it is right and timely that this conference has fixed our attention upon the unique set of challenges and opportunities that landlocked developing countries face. I wish to congratulate the Government of Austria for having hosted this important event and to recognize the work of the UN Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS under the remarkable leadership of Ambassador Acharya, for mobilizing the international community to produce a bold programme of action that will guide our approach to the LLDCs in the coming decade.

A review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action has shown that we have made significant strides in the past 10 years. And while we should acknowledge and celebrate these achievements, the review also revealed that structural issues continue to hamper economic growth in many of the 32 landlocked countries. While collective GDP growth rates for LLDCs increased from 4.5% in 2003 to 6.3% in 2013, a closer look reveals that these gains were unevenly distributed, with only a handful of countries accounting for the majority of GDP growth. Evidence suggests that these macro gains have not translated into high rates of job creation or rapid poverty reduction. Social development has also been halting; half of the LLDCs are still mired in the low end of the human development index.

Since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2003, the global community has witnessed a number of important shifts, chief among them the dramatic rise of the Global South. The UN estimates that total developing economies' exports now account for 45% of the world total, up from just 24% in 1960. South-South trade volume reached a record of \$4.7 trillion in 2012, which accounts for over a quarter of worldwide trade. And around the world, emerging economies of the South are attracting higher and higher levels of FDI, which have reshaped old alignments based mostly on aid.

Indeed, the Global South has emerged as significant players in the world economy as both the catalyst and drivers of growth. Its rise has spurred new bilateral, regional and international modalities of cooperation, including the emergence of the BRICS. These South-South partnerships, which are complements to, not substitutes for, North-South cooperation, have opened the door for expanded South to South trade, investment, knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, policy coordination, and industrial collaboration

with the aim of meeting the targets set forth by the MDGS and other international development goals by and beyond 2015.

Thus, as we take stock of what we have achieved and look to the coming decade, South-South and Triangular Cooperation is well positioned to take a prominent role in shaping the development agenda for LLDCs. The potential for South-South Cooperation to help LLDCs overcome their infrastructural, institutional and technological challenges are significant. Specifically, South-South Cooperation has addressed numerous structural development issues that confront LLDCs by improving harmonization on trade and transit policies, improving market access and trading opportunities, facilitating the transfer of technology, sharing knowledge and best practices, and increasing flows of investment. South-South and Triangular cooperation is highlighted in the draft outcome document which calls for:

1. The doubling of South-South flows in the next 10 years in trade, aid, and technical support;
2. Strengthened membership of landlocked developing countries in bilateral and regional integration frameworks through South-South and triangular cooperation; and;
3. Strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of transit transport cooperation and the development of productive capacity as well as preferential market access for products of landlocked developing countries.

This is a big challenge that cannot be accomplished by the effort of one country and one government, or one organization. It will require buy-in from all relevant stakeholders from the international community—member states, the UN system, public and private sector as well as civil society—to build new inclusive partnerships and cooperation mechanisms. This is exactly what we at the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), together with our many sister UN organizations and specialized agencies, have been trying to do in the last 8 years through our South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (known as the SS-GATE). The SS-GATE is a global platform that facilitates the exchange of technologies, investment finance, and other assets between private and public sector operators in developing countries.

SS-GATE has steadily established its presence throughout the developing world. To date, SS-GATE has established 49 country centres in 39 countries, 9 of which are based in landlocked developing countries. Leveraging this ready-made platform, UNOSSC partnered with UN-OHRLLS last year at the Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi, Kenya to launch the South-South Technology Transfer Facility for LLDCs. The objective of this facility is to direct focused attention and resources to deliver game-changing innovations and technologies to LLDCs in key areas such as sustainable agriculture, water management, global health, climate change adaptation and renewable energy.

Working with the support of and in coordination with neighboring transit countries, this recently launched LLDC Facility has already started to produce concrete results. Since 2013, SS-GATE has expanded its services by opening three new country centres in LLDCs. The Facility has also generated a cumulative total of \$12 million of potential investments in the area of sustainable agriculture in LLDCs. Through the Facility's matchmaking platform, ten

additional project proposals have also been identified and are ready for investment and/or partnership.

These are the types of innovative initiatives and partnerships that promise to unleash the dynamism of the South to continue their contributions to the sustainable development of LLDCs. We call upon your support, guidance, and engagement to move these important initiatives forward. Together, we can harness the power of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to implement the new programme of action in support of LLDCs.

Thank you.