Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President of the Conference, Excellencies, and distinguished guests,

- Canada is pleased to participate in this important meeting. We are here to celebrate the achievements of the Landlocked Developing Countries at the mid-term point of the Vienna Programme of Action, understand remaining challenges and obstacles to implementation, and discuss how to work more effectively together.
• Canada values our relationships with our LLDC partners. We are committed to strengthening cooperation with you in your efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with your national development strategies and priorities. The 2030 Agenda provides an unprecedented opportunity for us to work together towards our common goals for peace, prosperity, and sustainable development.
• But global development progress has been uneven to date, especially for countries in special situations such as LLDCs. Facing severe structural impediments to sustainable development and remoteness from world markets, LLDCs are at risk of being left behind. The adverse effects of climate change – in particular, land degradation and drought – risk compounding these challenges. At the same time, there are opportunities for LLDCs to harness new technologies and the digital economy in support of sustainable development.
• Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy is guiding our working with our LLDC partners to help them tackle these challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

• In recognition that different states face different challenges and there is no ‘one-size fits all’ approach, Canada seeks to respond to the needs, opportunities, and priorities of our partners, taking into account their specific context.
• Ainsi, le Canada collabore avec l'Éthiopie pour accroître sa productivité agricole, améliorer la nutrition et promouvoir les possibilités d’emploi et de moyens de subsistance — particulièrement pour les femmes. Le Canada appuie également le Programme de protection des moyens de production de l’Éthiopie afin d’aider ce pays à répondre aux besoins des ménages éprouvant le plus d’insécurité alimentaire et à améliorer les moyens leur permettant de gagner leur vie.
• En Afghanistan, l’aide au développement du Canada est axée sur la santé, l’éducation, les droits des femmes et des filles et l’accroissement des possibilités économiques des femmes. Le Canada fournit également un soutien pour aider à renforcer la résilience des populations touchées par les crises.

• Le Canada appuie les politiques et les programmes du Mali visant à améliorer l’accès à des services de santé reproductive, maternelle et infantile et à l’éducation primaire. L’aide internationale du Canada contribue également à favoriser la paix et la sécurité et à promouvoir la croissance économique en appuyant la production agricole et l’autonomisation économique des femmes dans les régions rurales.
• Canada is also working with partners to mobilize additional financing for sustainable development, in recognition that all sources of finance – public, private, domestic and international – must be harnessed if we are to achieve the Global Goals. We are expanding our development finance toolkit, and establishing new innovative partnerships that catalyze private capital for the SDGs. September’s High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development demonstrated there is interest to increase the share of new forms of development finance available to LDCs and LLDCs.
• Canada recognizes the infrastructure needs of LLDCs to drive growth, and supports global efforts to increase private sector investments in infrastructure through the G7, G20, UN and multilateral development banks.

• Our support to the ‘Closing the Investment Gap’ initiative and the World Bank Global Infrastructure Hub helps develop critical infrastructure projects around the world, including in landlocked developing countries.
• LLDCs are important economic partners for Canada and we recognize that greater integration of LLDCs into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development.

• We applaud the efforts made by LLDCs to implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and adopt measures to simplify trade regulations, documents and procedures, with support from their development partners and transit countries.
• To promote economic growth in the world’s poorest countries, Canada has extended duty-free treatment to imports from LDCs through the Least Developed Country Tariff since 1983. Many LLDCs benefit from these measures.

• Promoting economic security is one of Canada’s five priorities for the Security Council. If elected for the 2021-22 term, Canada will continue to work to align public and private capital with the SDGs and to develop new and innovative ways to increase investment into developing countries, including LLDCs.
• Canada is listening carefully to the interests and concerns expressed by Landlocked Developing Countries, and we look forward to continued collaboration with you. Together, we can accelerate the pace of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda to further sustainable development and leave no one behind.

Thank you.