Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Fathi Edrees

Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

To the High Level Global Midterm Review

on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this important and timely meeting to review the needs and challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries.

The Vienna Programme of Action represents a significant landmark in the recognition of the special needs and problems of landlocked countries. The implementation of the Vienna Programme is all about bringing real tangible impact, about including more than 500 million people in the landlocked developing countries. That is almost 7% of the world’s population, occupying around 12% of total world land area.

Mr. President,

While globalization is ever expanding and generating significant benefits, these are yet to be shared equitably. LLDCs have yet to reap the full benefits offered by globalization.

In this context, I would like to highlight on the following points aiming at enhancing the ability of the landlocked developing countries to become an effective partner in international development activities:
There is an urgent need to foster productive capacities, and structural economic transformation. This target can be achieved by focusing on economic diversification, ICT, energy and human capital development.

- Moving away from project-based problem solving approach, towards programme-based interventions.

- Strengthen cooperation beyond trade, including on development projects in infrastructure, transport, and industrial development, and intensify industrialization in the LLDCs through linkages with regional value and global value chains, and enhance intra-regional trade, and special economic zones.

- There is a need as well to attract private investment, including foreign direct investment.

- We also encourage strengthening South-South cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among sub-regional and regional organizations.

- Official Development Assistance is key and indispensable for achieving sustainable development goals and should be aligned with national priorities and development strategies of the recipient countries.
Mr. President,

Egypt has always been keen on strengthening its relations with all developing countries, and on establishing relations based on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

In this spirit, Egypt organized the 4th edition of the “Investment for Africa Forum” in November 2019. The forum provided a unique pan African platform bringing together African heads of state and governments in inclusive interaction with prominent regional and international investors, as well as international financial institutions.

The Forum confirmed Egypt’s commitment to the African Development Agenda 2063, which aims at leveraging our capacities and expertise to realize tangible development results, with the ultimate objective of meeting the aspirations of the African people, and putting Africa on the global investment map.

In this regard, 13 deals worth $3 billion were signed at the conference. The forum made seven recommendations, including to call on international financial institutions and investment funds to finance infrastructure projects in Africa.

Mr. President,

The entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area will create new opportunities for African countries with its focus on youth employment, developing regional value chains, and supporting the creation of regional
infrastructure, though peace and security focal points make up the greatest number. And in this regard, Egypt will host this month Aswan Forum for “Peace and Sustainable Development”.

Egypt established as well the “Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development” (EAPD) as the first South-South Cooperation institution in Egypt aiming at putting the country’s comparative advantages and technical expertise into play for the benefit of the South, and in particular of Africa.

Meanwhile, several Egyptian companies took a leading role in directing investments to infrastructure sector, particularly telecommunications and construction in landlocked developing countries.

Finally Mr. President, Egypt welcomes the Political Declaration resulted from the Midterm Review, and remains committed to continue strengthening and preserving the interests of the developing world, including LLDCs, LDCs, SIDS and Africa in view of the mounting challenges facing developing countries which require unity and solidarity.

Thank you Mr. President.