Statement

by

Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie,
Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia to the United Nations

at

the Plenary meeting of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm
Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of
Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-20124

December 5, 2019

New York
H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly,
H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I wish to thank President of the 74th Session of General Assembly, [H.E Tijjani Muhammad-Bande,] for convening the Comprehensive High-level Midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014–24.

I also wish to thank our co-facilitators for their stewardship and leadership on the intergovernmental process leading to the adoption of the political declaration.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement presented by Palestine on behalf of G77 and China as well as Paraguay, on behalf of LLDCs.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the adoption of the Vienna Program of Action, Ethiopia has integrated and continued its implementation in line with our national development plan and priorities.

While we recognize that landlockedness increases our development constraints, we have been taking policy measures that improve our manufacturing base, and enhance our connectedness as well as competitiveness. In this respect, achieving inclusive and sustainable
industrialization and building resilient infrastructure are among the priorities of the Ethiopian government.

Based on our comparative advantage; we have given special attention to labour intensive and light manufacturing sectors-agro-processing, leather and textile. We have also established industrial parks that simplify access to land, eliminate the challenges in trade logistics and custom service. These policy actions are contributing to enhance our global competitiveness and participation in the global value chain.

In addition, the Ethiopian government has been making massive public investment in building infrastructure, with the objective of enhancing our productive capacity and to promote regional integration.

Encouraging progress has been registered in expanding road, railway and air transport services. We have also been working with neighboring transit countries to establish and maintain effective transit systems on the basis of common interest. Furthermore, recently, we have taken bold and historical decision that would, among others, diversify our sea outlets and further promote regional integration, in addition to the decision to join the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), as well as the preparations made to join the WTO in the near future.

In order to maintain our achievements, the government is formulating a ten-year perspective plan that lasts to 2030 focusing on structural economic transformation and ensuring inclusive and sustainable development, in addition to boosting export growth. The SDGs
and other global programs such as the VPoA will be fully and effectively mainstreamed in the plan.

The government is also taking bold measures to improve the “Doing Business Rank” of the country. A high-level team, chaired by the Prime Minister, is working on the issue, while a new logistics strategy, which is part of the government’s effort to promote the external trade sector and reduce transaction costs by engaging the private sector, has already been issued.

Excellencies,

As a result of the various measures taken, we registered some progress, but we fully recognize that a lot remains to be done to realize inclusive and sustainable development in Ethiopia. Hence, we reiterate our call for the international community to strengthen forging durable, transparent, accountable and effective partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries and development partners to support landlocked developing countries in their development endeavors and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment and readiness of my Government to fully implement the VPOA and the SDGs in close collaboration with our development partners.

I thank you.