Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the 74th Session of the General Assembly for convening this important high-level midterm review. I also wish to thank the co-facilitators for their stewardship on their intergovernmental process leading to the adoption of the Political Declaration.

Today’s global review provides us with an opportunity to chart a way forward the full and effective implementation of the Vienna Program of Action for LLDCs for the Decade of 2014-2024.

My delegation aligns with the statements made by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Paraguay on behalf of the Group of LLDCs.

Mr. President,

LLDCs continue to face considerable challenges inherently linked to their geographical handicap and remain largely marginalized in the global trade. With the emphasis on connectivity in policy, trade, finance, infrastructure and people-to-people links, the regional endeavors have played significant role for the development of LLDCs.

Meanwhile, we need in-depth analyses to find out constraints and challenges faced and identify concrete actions to overcome them.

I am glad to remember that my country initiated to establish an International Think Tank for LLDCs in 13 years ago. Today, this Center of Excellence has embodied as a first intergovernmental organization dedicated to LLDCs.

Mr. President,

Mongolia attaches utmost importance to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by LLDCs as outlined in the Vienna Program of Action, including structural rigidities, low share of global trade, remoteness, insufficient infrastructure development and limited resilience to the impact of internal and external shocks.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly touch upon some activities towards the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action.

The National Working Group was established with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, to review and coordinate the national implementation of the program.

In the past few years, Mongolia has achieved substantial results by developing its domestic soft and hard infrastructures. Specifically, we have successfully connected all
provinces of our country through energy transmission lines, internet communication networks, and around 6,000 kilometers of paved roads.

In the scope of infrastructure development, the President of Mongolia has called upon the establishment of Multilateral Institution for Electricity Grid Interconnections in North East Asia which will provide a number of economic, social and environmental benefits to this sub-region.

My country also has concluded several agreements with neighbouring countries including "The Agreement on access to and from the sea and transit transport through China’s territory by Mongolia", the Intergovernmental agreement between Governments of Mongolia and the Russian Federation on the Terms for the Rail Freight Transit Transportation and the Intergovernmental agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network between Mongolia, the Russian Federation and China.

The Government is implementing the Mongolia-Russia-China Economic Corridor Program that aligns our own “Development Road” program to the “Belt and Road" initiative. In this framework, we are planning to implement 32 major projects towards increasing trade turnover, developing infrastructure, ensuring competitiveness in goods supply and facilitating cross-border transportation. Under this program, we have also introduced several initiatives including Travel Facilitation Initiative for BRI countries.

Mr. President,

My Government welcomes the active work of the Geneva-based landlocked developing countries’ group including its recent initiative to improve the chairmanship mechanism as well as its communique on the occasion of this midterm review.

It is of vital importance to promote cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries as well as among LLDCs. In this regard, my government believes that it is necessary to establish an informal group of landlocked developing countries with further aim to establish a formal group of landlocked countries in the World Trade Organization to promote active collaboration among LLDCs, to identify common challenges facing by them in implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which is an important milestone for the multilateral trading system.

Next Ministerial Conference of the WTO, for the first time, will be hosted in a landlocked developing country. Thus, we should use this momentum and work towards tangible outcomes for the benefit of LLDCs including possible establishment of a landlocked countries’ group in the WTO with a specific work program. Mongolia is ready to collaborate with interested landlocked countries to establish such a group in Geneva.

Mr. President,

From the past five years, we have learned that ensuring inclusiveness and developing innovative methods of financing are imperative to advance the overarching goals of the Vienna Program of Action.

It is imperative, for the remaining five years, to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the program through fulfilling the commitments and strengthening of global partnership.
Seizing this opportunity, I would like to invite the member states and development partners to support the activities of the International Think Tank and call upon all landlocked developing countries that have not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs to do so at their earliest convenience.

I thank you for your attention.