

## **Remark of LLDCs' Group Chair**

### **Interactive debate on the perspectives for the Least Developed Countries and the Landlocked Developing Countries**

**Wednesday July 10, 2019**

**11:00 - 13:00, Conference Room 4, UNHQ**

Thank you very much, Madame Moderator, for giving me the floor.

I would also like to thank the Economic and Social Council, through its Vice President Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway, who is chairing this session, for organizing this segment on groups of vulnerable countries. We hope that this dedicated session will be replicated and strengthened in future editions of the High Level Political Forum.

We must acknowledge the reality that to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it is crucial that the six priorities of the Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024 are fully implemented, as this program is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As we approach the Midterm Review of the Vienna Program, to be held from 5 to 6 December 2019, the assessments of the national implementation reports and the three regional reviews that already took place, clearly indicate that although there is an important progress, it is not enough to fulfill the priorities of the VPoA nor achieve the SDGs in 2030.

Therefore, the support we can receive from our development partners is critical in order to improve our infrastructure, increase our connectivity and face major challenges that greatly affect LLDCs too, such as everything related to climate change.

We must also highlight the importance of having access to greater investments in the fields of energy and information and communication technologies, including the promotion of electronic commerce. These will be key tools in order to move towards the structural transformation of our economies and increased competitiveness.

Finally, we take this opportunity to make a fraternal and sincere call to the transit countries, the development partners, the United Nations System and the multiple stakeholders to increase support for the LLDCs, because if we keep on doing business as usual, the members of our group are on path of being left behind in the fulfillment of the SDGs.

We are fully confident that the efforts of the LLDCs, complemented by the commitment and support of the international community, will allow our countries to accelerate the pace of implementation of the ambitious instruments that we have all adopted in the last five years to move towards our sustainable development.

Thank you.