



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 July 2008

Excellency,

As you may recall, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/204, a high-level plenary meeting devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action will be held on 2 and 3 October 2008 in New York.

The high-level midterm review will provide Member States with an opportunity to assess the progress made so far in the implementation of the specific actions agreed upon in the Almaty Programme in the areas of fundamental policy issues, transit transport infrastructure and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation and international support, to identify constraints encountered and to develop a way forward with the single purpose to accelerate the implementation of the Programme in years to come.

The preparatory process for the midterm review is moving ahead. So far two thematic meetings on transit transport infrastructure development and international trade and trade facilitation, and three regional review meetings have been concluded successfully. The midterm progress report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action is being finalized for submission to the General Assembly. Intergovernmental consultations on the draft outcome document are underway under the guidance of my facilitator H.E. Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations.

Given the importance of the high-level midterm review and the issues at stake, I would therefore encourage your government to be represented at the ministerial or highest possible level.

An information note on the organizational arrangements and the tentative programme for the high-level midterm review meeting are herewith transmitted.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written in a cursive style.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**Organizational arrangements for the high-level plenary meetings devoted to the
midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action
New York, 2 and 3 October 2008**

Information Note

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/204, inter alia, decided to hold two days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action during its sixty-third session in New York, on 2 and 3 October 2008, to be chaired by the President of the Assembly. This note outlines proposed arrangements for the high-level plenary meetings.

Participation

2. Participation in the high-level plenary meetings is expected at the ministerial or highest possible level.

Programme of the high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action

3. The high-level plenary meeting on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action will comprise plenary meetings and a high-level panel.
4. The opening of the high-level plenary meeting shall be addressed by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition, the President of the General Assembly intends to invite two or three Heads of State or Government to address the opening session.
5. Member States are encouraged to limit their interventions during the plenary meetings to not more than seven minutes. A formal list of speakers will be opened with the General Assembly Branch.
6. The outcome document of the high-level midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action will be adopted at the closing of the high level plenary meeting.

High-level Panel

7. A high-level panel on the *“Role of International Support in establishing efficient transit transport systems to expand trade opportunities for landlocked developing countries”*, will be held on 2 October 2008 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber immediately following the opening of the high-level plenary meeting. The panel will be moderated by The High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
8. Presentations will be made by the Heads of relevant UN Agencies, financial and development institutions, such as UNCTAD, UNDP and regional development banks. The floor will be then open for an interactive, free-flowing discussion. Participants are encouraged to limit their interventions to not more than three minutes. There will be no formal list of speakers. Representatives of the relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and

Social Council, civil society organizations, and the private sector will be invited to participate in the high level panel.

Pre-conference and side events

9. There will be an investment forum on 1 October 2008, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber, entitled: *“Investing in Landlocked Developing Countries: trends, experiences and the way forward”*, organized jointly by the UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD and the World Bank. Government representatives and representatives of national investment promotion agencies and the private sector from host and home countries will participate as panellists. The floor will then be open for an interactive discussion.
10. A round table on the following theme: *“Regional dimension for transit transport cooperation”* will take place between 1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m. on 3 October 2008, to be moderated by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Presentations will be made by the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions on their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems in their respective regions.

**High-level plenary meeting devoted to the
midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action
(2 and 3 October 2008)**

Tentative Programme

Thursday, 2 October 2008

10:00 – 11:00 am
(General Assembly Hall)

Opening of the high-level plenary meeting

11:15 am – 1:00 pm
(Trusteeship Council)

Panel: Role of International Support in establishing efficient transit transport systems to expand trade opportunities for LLDCs
Moderator: Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Presentation by Mr. Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator

Presentation by Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, UNCTAD Secretary General

Presentation by Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank (TBC)

Presentation by Mr. Danny Leipziger, Vice President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank

Presentation by Mr. Modibo I. Toure, Chief of Staff and Director of President's Office, African Development Bank

Presentation by Ms. Thelma Diaz, Resident Director General of North American Representative Office, Asian Development Bank

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Continuation of the high-level plenary meeting.*

Friday, 3 October 2008

10:00 am – 1:00 pm
(General Assembly Hall)

Continuation of the high-level plenary meeting.*

3:00 – 5:30 pm
(General Assembly Hall)

Continuation of the high-level plenary meeting.*

5:30 – 6:00 pm
(General Assembly Hall)

Closing of the high-level plenary meeting

* Statements in the plenary are limited to seven minutes.