



**Remarks
by**

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and
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at the

Closing Session
of the

**High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional
and Sub-regional Organizations in the Implementation of
the Almaty Programme of Action
(29-31 March 2005)**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan
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Transport Minister Nagmanov,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We had a very interactive three-day High-level Meeting to consult on our strategies for the further implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. I would say that this High-level Meeting was unique in that it brought together high-level senior officials from international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The organizations that you represent here may differ in terms of mandate and scope of activities but we are united around the common goal to assist landlocked developing countries in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems.

We will work on the follow up to this Meeting and the implementation of the Communiqué that has just been adopted. As requested, my Office will continue its consultations with the participating agencies on the proposed coordinated technical cooperation programme.

I will bring the outcome of this Meeting to the Conference of African Ministers for Transport and Infrastructure that I will be addressing in Addis Ababa next week. The issues that were raised here would be of relevance to the African Meeting, particularly the one relating to indicators to measure progress.

Your communiqué will be sent to the UN General Assembly in order to be officially endorsed.

The report of this Meeting and the specific proposed projects and presentations will be compiled in a publication which would be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly as part of our efforts towards forging global partnerships for development and implement the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action.

The report and your communiqué would be an input to the September summit that will review the progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, since the outcome of this Meeting represents a major contribution towards implementing Goal Eight of the MDGs.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the host country for the wonderful hospitality and excellent arrangements provided that allowed the successful hosting and conclusion of this Meeting. Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank our distinguished ambassadors from New York: Ambassador Kittikhoun of Lao PDR, who chairs the LLDC Group, Ambassador Loizaga of Paraguay, coordinator of the LLDC group on trade matters and Ambassador Kazykhanov of Kazakhstan, whose support was crucial to the success of this Meeting.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of the participants for having shared so passionately their experiences.

We have given a great boost to the Almaty process and it is in a spirit of strengthened partnership for the benefit of the landlocked developing countries that I now declare the High-level Meeting closed.