



**H.E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Informal stock-taking meeting of the Economic and Social Council on the Second
UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

New York, 13 January 2015

OPENING REMARKS

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Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here in the Council to take stock of what happened at and around the second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries which took place last November in Vienna. The outcomes of the Conference, namely the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014-2024, underscore the commitment of the international community to address challenges related to landlockedness, remoteness and geographical isolation. Indeed, the Vienna Programme of Action is an ambitious development agenda which endeavours to put LLDCs on a steady path for sustainable, inclusive and more rapid economic growth and development with the stated aim of ending extreme poverty.

Today's informal meeting has three interrelated objectives: first, to reflect on the preparatory process and the organization of the Conference itself, underscoring the important lessons that we learned; second, to deliberate on the six priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action to explore how they can be integrated in other processes, including the post-2015 development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, Financing for Development, the Climate Change Agenda, and the work of ECOSOC; and third, to outline our commitment to LLDCs and the implication of the Vienna Programme of Action to the global community, in particular, LLDCs themselves, their transit neighbours, development partners, United Nations system organizations and other multilateral organizations as well as the private-sector players.

The numerous pressing challenges which the LLDCs face are matters to which the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) regularly devotes time to throughout its meetings, in order to

give visibility to their issues and to rally the international community and the UN system and all stakeholders to their cause. These challenges which arise mainly from remoteness and distances from international markets are a real obstacle to their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Their economies, therefore, need continued support from the international community.

In this regard, the VPoA is built on the basis of strong and close collaboration between LLDCs and their development partners in a variety of contexts, including, multilateral, bilateral and the South-South and triangular cooperation. I believe that it is only through effective cooperation amongst all stakeholders that we can ultimately achieve our global sustainable development aspirations. As we transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the post-2015 period, we must ensure that partnership mechanisms become central to the implementation of the new development agenda. This includes, in particular, LLDCs. The Council will help to advance partnerships for implementing the post-2015 development agenda. It will continue to provide a unique platform where governments, NGOs, business, academia and the philanthropic community, and others, can come together to forge ways for promoting sustainable development.

ECOSOC is committed to addressing the unique challenges of LLDCs. It will continue to give visibility to these challenges and to garner the support of the international community, UN system and all stakeholders in the post-2015 era. I am convinced that today's discussions will contribute to the progress in poverty eradication and sustainable development in LLDCs and the new development blueprint which would guide them in the next decade.

Let me now turn to our speakers. Excellencies, thank you joining this meeting. We are looking forward to your views on the Conference and the way forward.

I now give the floor to Under Secretary-General and High Representative Gyan Chandra Acharya, who will share his reflections on preparations for and the outcome of the Second UN Conference on LLDCs.