



UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY

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**ON AGENDA ITEM 23
GROUPS OF COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

NEW YORK, October 17, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you and members of the Bureau for your able stewardship of the work of the Second Committee. We thank the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Amb. Gyan Acharya for his presentation.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the representatives of Algeria, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Benin on behalf of the G77 and China, the Group of LLDCs, and the Group of LDCs respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Uganda reaffirms its commitment to full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the priorities of which have already been mainstreamed in the National Development Plan. We call upon the international community and development partners to support the efforts of LDCs by honouring all their commitments and mobilizing the requisite resources for the implementation of the IPoA in a timely manner.

While we welcome the growing recognition by the international community of the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, the economic growth and development of LLDCs continues to be severely constrained by high transport and trade transaction costs.

As we all know, addressing the challenges of inadequate infrastructure and policy harmonization is a prerequisite for establishing efficient transit transport systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries. To achieve this, considerable investments have to be made in physical transport and communication infrastructure as well as in capacity-building and institutional reforms where necessary.

It is therefore imperative to strengthen collaboration amongst the landlocked, transit countries and their development partners to mobilize the requisite financial resources and technical expertise.

We call upon development partners to honour their commitments, including increasing Aid for Trade disbursements for improvement of LLDCs productive capacities, infrastructure development and capacity-building to enhance their competitiveness.

In Uganda, the government has prioritized infrastructure development, especially energy and roads, and has allocated significant domestic resources in the national budget for this purpose. At the sub-regional level, the five East African Community partner states continue to prioritize transit corridors infrastructure development and enhancement of transit transport co-operation. This is being done through implementing measures such as single border posts, single window processing, electronic cargo tracking, harmonization of transit documents and charges, and use of electronic clearance systems among others.

Given the importance of railways in transit transport corridors linking ocean ports with LLDCs, the East African Railway Masterplan envisages construction of new railway connections and upgrading of existing ones. The EAC partner states, in conjunction with the African Development Bank, international financial institutions and development partners, are mobilizing the resources needed for this and other sub-regional infrastructure projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, we stress the importance of adequate preparations for the ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme in 2014. The review will provide an important opportunity for the landlocked and transit developing countries and the development partners to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the Programme's implementation, with a view to developing an action-oriented strategic framework for greater integration of LLDCs in the global economy and move them closer to achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the next decade.

Thank you.