

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia  
to the UN**

**following the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration**

**at the Virtual Ministerial Meeting “Partnering for Accelerated Implementation  
of the Vienna Programme for Action and Achieving Sustainable Development in  
LLDCs”**

**23 September 2020**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Minister,

Thank you for holding this meeting today and I am sure I speak on behalf of many of our NY-based colleagues in commending the chairmanship of Kazakhstan and the leadership of our colleague Ambassador Kairat Umarov in stirring the activities of the group.

I am taking the floor to make a brief comment on the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, which, I think can be helpful for our collective reflections on the work of the Group and the way forward. I am compelled to express strongest concern, about the ways, in which one delegation demonstrated a most distasteful and dysfunctional pattern of thought and behavior in course of negotiations on the draft text, holding hostage the inclusion of such important elements in the text of the Declaration as provisions on negative impact of unilateral coercive measures and references to the necessity of maintaining transit freight transportation for the countries in disadvantaged geographical situation.

Azerbaijan’s complete inability to positively engage and contribute constructively in deliberations, without irrelevant, highly demagogical narratives, is detrimental to the interests of the landlocked developing countries and the agenda that the group stands for.

The inflammatory rhetoric we heard today from the foreign minister of that country must be acknowledged for what it is –domestically driven propaganda, and nothing short of instigation of hatred. This was an irresponsible, unhelpful distraction in complete disregard of the core interests of the Group.

I think we need to formulate better rules of engagement for the membership of the group so as to make sure that a single country is strictly restrained from hijacking the important collective agenda in front of us.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.