

**Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
22 September 2022**

Statement by Austria

Mr. Chair of the Group of LLDCs,
Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Ms. Deputy Secretary-General,
Ms. President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Firstly, allow me to join others in congratulating Under-Secretary-General Rabab Fatima on her appointment as High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. It is my great privilege to participate in this year's meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Landlocked Developing Countries on behalf of Federal Minister Alexander Schallenberg. And it is with great pleasure that we join today's debate as we gather once again in person to discuss the critical challenges faced by LLDCs.
- Against the backdrop of the current global context, these challenges are more urgent than ever before: Stalled growth, surging inflation, rising energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions and elevated transport costs are constraining landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. LLDCs continue to struggle with low rates of vaccination against COVID-19, climate change vulnerability, unsustainable debt and natural resource dependency.
- To ensure that we do not lose sight of the goals we set for us all, but which are of particular importance to the LLDCs, enhanced international support towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, COVID-19 recovery as well as climate change is fundamental.
- Being a landlocked country ourselves, Austria fully supports and stands in solidarity with the LLDCs. In 2014, we hosted the Second UN conference on landlocked developing countries in Vienna. Together with Bhutan, we co-facilitated the Outcome Document of the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action, which was adopted in December 2019. Austria will continue to stand side-by-side with the LLDCs, in order to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, consistent with a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda is our guiding document.
- Almost one third into the Decade of Action, we need to keep our focus firmly set towards 2030. We welcome the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, which was adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in 2020 and the priority areas outlined in that document. It is our joint responsibility as international community to ensure that we leave no one behind.

- Last year, the General Assembly in its resolution 76/217, called for the convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024. Building on our long-standing partnership with the LLDCs, Austria fully recognizes the importance of the upcoming Third UN Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries. If so decided by the group, Austria stands ready to host the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna in 2024.
- Thank you for your attention!