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Closing Remarks

by

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Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

at

**Training Workshop for Policy Makers from LLDCs and Transit
Countries, Strengthening capacity to design and implement policies
and identify solutions that promote transport connectivity for the
achievement of the SDGs**

28 September 2021 11:15am NY time

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for participating in this important training workshop.

Before reflecting on some of the issues we have discussed, I want to update you about LDC5.

This is the Fifth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries that will take place in Doha from 23-27 January 2022.

A new Programme of Action for the LDCs is currently under negotiation as we prepare for the Conference. And many of the issues we have covered today – transport connectivity and regional integration for example – will be at the heart of this new agenda.

In addition to producing an ambitious Programme for Action for the next decade, we want the conference to help energize and inspire delegates to meet the challenges ahead.

Throughout the week, we will bring young people together with media, civil society and private sector organizations to create an inclusive, engaging, and exciting series of events.

The Qatar National Convention Center offers beautiful facilities and interactive spaces. The Youth pavilion, an interactive installation, will connect delegates to people in the LDCs in real time, ensuring maximum buy-in and participation.

Invitations by the Secretary-General have been sent out to all member states. I urge you to attend the conference and encourage the highest possible level participation and engagement.

We have a dedicated LDC5 website up and running, and I'd encourage you to log-in to that for the latest news.

So, that's the pitch done! Now let reflect briefly on today's training.

First, I wish to convey special thanks to the Government of Botswana for co-organizing this session.

Thank you too, to everyone who has shared their important knowledge on developing policies for enhanced transport connectivity.

I would like to congratulate all of you for your dedication and active engagement in the learning experience.

I was particularly pleased to hear that the training showcased a wide variety of case studies in how to develop good transport policy. Our office is very solution-focused and we are always looking to share ideas that are proven to work.

The list of topics covered has been impressive and varied:

- how to use data to formulate and monitor evidence-based policies.
- legal and regulatory frameworks that promote efficient transit transport
- initiatives to enhance trade facilitation - such as one stop border posts, single windows and transport corridors.

The importance of building transport systems that are sustainable and resilient to the impacts of external shocks was a theme that ran throughout. This is unsurprising in an era marked by climate change and Covid-19.

The pandemic has tested our planning and our resilience in every way. And so it was good to hear about innovative solutions – such as the use of Smart Technology for Seamless Cross-borders.

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Before closing I just want to remind people about the developing National Focal Points Network.

Once fully established, this Network will help facilitate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda, and other global frameworks at the national level.

Through this Network, we aim to strengthen coherence and coordination, at the national, regional, and global levels on LLDC-related issues including on transport connectivity.

I would like to thank all of you once again for your engagement today.

My great appreciation goes to the interpreters for their important support to our training workshop.

I wish to encourage you to complete the evaluation of this training workshop that will be shared with you today as it shall help us shape our future plans.

I want to thank the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund for supporting this training workshop.

I look forward to our work together, as we advance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.