

Statement by H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by commending the Government of Botswana and its Permanent Mission in New York for their dedication to improving the lives of the citizens in Landlocked Developing Countries.

Being from a landlocked state myself, today's discussion is dear to my heart. I thank you for inviting me to speak this morning.

Excellencies,

We have spent all week recognizing the complexity of the challenges we face.

For days, we have been speaking of a wide range of interlinked and interlocking crises affecting our world.

And, in the case of landlocked countries, the additional vulnerability stemming from their lack of territorial access to seas.

We have established the diagnosis, but now it is also time to speak about the therapy.

LLDCs need long-term and sustainable solutions; solutions that are supported by solidarity.

They need increased development cooperation.

Improved South-South and triangular cooperation.

Regional agreements to strengthen the tourist industry.

Investments to improve transport infrastructure.

Markets regulated to increase the accessibility of resources.

And, ultimately, long-term agreements rooted in science, innovation and trust.

Colleagues,

The Vienna Programme of Action Decade will be coming to an end in 2024. Less than two years are left and still so much remains to be done.

Therefore, over the next two years, I urge us all to do, among other things, the following:

- Develop cooperative management of water and land resources.
- Boost regional scientific cooperation to form joint transport systems.
- Enhance joint disaster risk reduction planning and disaster response agreements.
- Create joint education and capacity development programs.
- Bolster benefit sharing schemes and financial mechanisms to invest in regional water, food, and climate resilience.

These are all examples of concrete solutions that could help us prepare for the **Third United Nations LLDC Conference in 2024.**

Please, bring these proposals home with you.

Colleagues,

The LLDC agenda is crucial to the success of peaceful and sustainable development worldwide.

I will work to ensure that the 32 LLDCs and the 450 million people within them are fairly represented in the General Assembly.

This, in turn, will benefit us all.

I thank you.