**Statement of Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od, Executive Director of ITTLLDC**

**23rd Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of LLDCs**

September 26, 2024, New York

Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Honorable Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Excellency Chair Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this annual meeting.

It is both a privilege and an honor to engage in dialogue with such esteemed representatives, united in advancing the interests of our countries. Your ongoing commitment and collaboration are essential in helping us overcome the unique challenges faced by LLDCs.

I want to emphasize the importance of the upcoming the 3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which will be held in Gaborone, Botswana, from December 10 to 13, 2024. This conference presents a crucial opportunity to address the critical issues faced by our countries, issues that often go unnoticed on the global stage.

As we know, LLDCs face significant barriers in accessing global trade and economic opportunities due to geographical constraints. Being landlocked presents numerous challenges, from limited access to international markets to the high costs of infrastructure for transport and logistics. LLDC3 offers us a chance to explore innovative solutions and forge strategic partnerships to unlock the potential of LLDCs. By promoting meaningful collaboration, increased investment, and creative approaches, we can pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future—not just for LLDCs, but for the global community as well.

As the intergovernmental institution dedicated solely to LLDCs, the ITTLLDC continues to lead in research, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts to address these challenges.

Given the importance of this conference and our commitment to actively engage in its proceedings, I am pleased to inform you that the ITTLLDC in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Center (ITC) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) is working to organize three side events during the conference. These events will focus on information and communication technology, international trade and climate change issues in LLDCs. We are confident that these discussions will contribute meaningfully to the overarching goals of the conference.

Allow me now to outline some of our recent research activities that are particularly relevant to the ongoing work of this body:

1. "An Analysis of Mongolia's Transport Sector Development: Policy and Implementation Overview" – This research, conducted by national sector experts under the supervision of the Think Tank, reviews Mongolia’s transport sector development and identifies the economic impacts of its policies. Despite the growing role of Mongolia's transport sector in the global market, challenges remain due to fragmented policies. A coordinated approach, particularly in road transport and transit sectors, is crucial for sustainable growth.

2. "Exploring the Prospects and Future of Multilateral Diplomacy of LLDCs" – This study highlights the role of multilateral diplomacy in Mongolia's foreign policy, with the ITTLLDC as a case study. The research emphasizes how small states can leverage multilateral diplomacy to protect their interests and promote peace and security.

3. "Challenges and Priorities for Landlocked Developing Countries in the Aviation Sector" – In collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the ITTLLDC is planning to conduct a research on the aviation challenges faced by LLDCs. It calls for measures such as slot allocation support to enhance connectivity and resilience in LLDCs like Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Armenia, and Mongolia.

4. "Creating a Strategic Roadmap for Enhancing Equitable Participation of Civil Society Organization in E-Transition" – This report examines the role of civil society in Mongolia's digital transformation and highlights the barriers faced by marginalized groups. It provides a strategic roadmap for improving engagement in the digital transition, particularly for vulnerable populations.

5. "Research and Innovation Network for LLDCs" – This new initiative, established in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Mongolia, aims to bolster evidence-based policymaking and promote sustainable development in LLDCs. The network fosters collaboration between international experts to address challenges such as trade, transport, economic diversification, and digital transformation.

Your Excellencies, these are just a few examples of the ITTLLDC activities undertaking. We remain committed to advancing the interests of LLDCs through rigorous research, advocacy, and meaningful partnerships. We invite you all to support initiatives that seek to unlock the full potential of LLDCs.

As we approach the UN 3rd Conference on LLDCs, we must seize the significant opportunities ahead by working together, embracing innovation, and fostering international collaboration. This moment calls for determined and united action.

Finally, I would like to call on all LLDCs that have not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement for the establishment of ITTLLDC to do so. I also encourage development partners and Friends of LLDCs to continue supporting and utilizing the ITTLLDC for sharing experiences, conducting research, and addressing our collective challenges.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you, especially to Her Excellency Under-Secretary-General and High Representative Ms. Rabab Fatima, for your unwavering support.

Thank you for your kind attention.