

Statement
by H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the 22nd Ministerial Meeting of the Landlocked Developing Countries

New York, 21 September, 10.00-13.00
UN Headquarters

Time limit: 4 minutes

Honorable Chair of LLDCs,
Madam High Representative,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate Botswana for its able stewardship of the Group of the **Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)** under current challenges of unprecedented proportions. Let me also wish every success to the incoming Chair ... (Председатель будет определен позднее).

Kazakhstan being the largest landlocked country in the world, and having **chaired the LLDC Group** in 2020-2021, knows the impediments fully well. Furthermore, of the 32 LLDCs, as many as half of them fall in the category of the Least Developed Countries, which doubles the challenges standing ahead of these countries.

In addition to geographical disadvantages, the newly emerging challenges of the climate change, food insecurity and geopolitical tensions, make it an unbearable milestone to reduce poverty and integrate into the global economy.

Mr. Chair, we are fell far short of reaching the **Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA)**, and the Agenda 2030 goals, as proven by the 2019 Midterm Review of the VPoA as well as the UN SDG Progress report, despite the achievements noted.

Just this August, the Kazakh delegation participated in the **High-level Euro-Asia Regional Review of the VPoA in Bangkok**.

It showcased that we are heavily **lagging behind** the benchmarks for **several vital challenges** as promotion of wider use of technological and ICT-based solutions for trade facilitation, **development of multimodal transport corridors and transport links**. We still need a significant increase of investment in development and technical maintenance of transport infrastructure, disaster risk and climate analysis, creation of favorable conditions for investment and infrastructure of renewable energy operations such as hydropower, wind power and solar energy.

All these issues cannot be addressed single handedly by LLDCs only. The development partners need to support us in ways **to not only attract but also retain investments**. It is essential that donor and investment policy communities coordinate to mitigate global supply chain disruptions and support LLDCs to maintain linkages with them.

Simultaneously, **reform of the debt structure and the international financial architecture is absolutely critical**.

In the **regional focus**, I would like to underscore that countries of the Central Asian region, having common historic and geopolitical background, face similar challenges, including the implementation of the SDGs. We also have a common vision for their solution. This was decisive cause in our proposal to host in Almaty **the Regional Hub on Sustainable Development for Central Asia and Afghanistan**.

The idea is fully supported by all Central Asian states and Afghanistan.

We need to strengthen the “One UN” approach, improve coordination of UN agencies at the regional level, and promote better cooperation and synergy among international organizations and the Governments of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

If being successful, **such experience could be replicated in other regions** of the world to promote sustainable development and better address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude, Kazakhstan is committed to see that policy guidelines of the **Third UN Conference of LLDCs** to be held next year in Kigali **contribute to the Summit of the Future**, which will take place next September. It should ultimately accelerate momentum for the implementation of the new Programme of Action and Agenda 2030.

We believe that **Kazakhstan and many other LLDCs will continue their efforts to promote synergies between the new Programme of Action and its predecessors**.

In this regard, we see it is vital **to duly note that, launched during Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship, the Roadmap on Acceleration of Implementation of the VPoA in the new Programme to be adopted in Rwanda**. We also need to adjust it to the new developments outlined in the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries next year.

The **Roadmap** should be a **regularly updated guideline reference book** for the countries of our Group to keep track of UN activities to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

I thank you for your attention.