

Dear Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Botswana,

Doctor Kwape!

Dear Heads of Delegations!

Dear UN Under Secretary-General Ms. Rabab!

The Kyrgyz Republic delegation welcomes the decision of Botswana Presidency in the Landlocked Developing Countries Group to convene our meeting today. Given the ongoing turbulent and disruptive developments in global security and economy it is very timely to exchange views and agree on how we can best cooperate and advance our common interests.

Availing this opportunity, I congratulate Ms. Rabab with appointment as UN Under-Secretary-General, and wish her much success! The High Representative and her Office can count on full support of Kyrgyzstan.

Excellencies!

The current international tension undermines world economy's recovery from coronavirus pandemic, and has also led to food security and many other challenges. We, the fellow landlocked countries, can overcome all the hardships in unity and solidarity. So I call for much closer cooperation in trade, transport and other critical areas with direct engagement of the High Representative Office in order to ensure comprehensive fulfillment of the Vienna Program of Action and its Roadmap for the Accelerated Implementation. From our side, I reiterate Kyrgyzstan's commitments related to them.

In the meantime, let me briefly inform you about our national priorities and policy actions. The Kyrgyz Government remains focused on infrastructure projects that will boost international trade, investment, transit and tourist opportunities for Kyrgyzstan. One of those projects is the railroad China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan that will turn the Central Asian region into a vital hub of the world trade. We welcome a recent signing by the parties of the trilateral

cooperation memorandum in the ancient city of Samarkand.

The other project is related to green recovery and development. As a mountain country, we are keen on boosting hydropower and other renewable energy production industries. For example, Kyrgyzstan is currently in talks with our neighbors - Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan - on co-investing into construction of Kambar-Ata hydropower plant that will enhance energy security and address water shortages for irrigation purposes in three countries.

On a related note, I wish to inform you that Kyrgyzstan is also promoting interests of the mountain landlocked developing states. Last year Kyrgyzstan initiated adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution announcing the year of twenty twenty-two as International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development. This year Kyrgyzstan proposes the world community to pass a UN General Assembly resolution and implement a Five Year Action for the Development of Mountain Regions in order to foster broader and inclusive international cooperation. The Action will focus on achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in mountain regions through implementation of development projects on conserving environment and preventing natural disasters, fostering trade and investments, reducing poverty, improving infrastructure and access to sustainable energy in mountain communities. In this regard, I invite all of you to co-sponsor and support this resolution.

Thank you for kind attention!