

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. SULHBOLD SUKHEE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF LANDLOCKED
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(25 September 2019, New York)

H.E. Mr. Antonio Rivas Palacios, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay,
H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
Ms. Fekitamoeloa Utoikamanu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Government of Paraguay for its excellent leadership and exceptional efforts as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries. I also wish to commend, Minister Castiglioni, your personal leadership and dedication to the Group and the terrific work doing by your Ambassador to the United Nations.

I would like to take this moment to express sincere appreciation to United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative Ms. Utoikamanu and her good office for the continued support extended to the countries with special needs.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims at “transforming our world” through ensuring zero poverty, protecting environment and eradicating inequality. In this connection, we recognize the importance of high-level events convened during this week, including the SDG Summit, the 2019 Climate Action Summit, High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway and High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage. They will certainly galvanize multilateral efforts for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia delivered its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019, sharing our best practices and experiences and identifying gaps and challenges. It provided us with an opportunity to mobilize multi-stakeholders’ support and partnership for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and improving international community’s understanding on Mongolia’s circumstances.

Our very first review on the SDGs takes air-pollution as a key example of the modern challenging issues and it highlights that inequality remains a serious impediment that undermines the durability of development gains. In particular, the review stresses the importance of policy coherence, which eventually requires the concerted implementation across the government ministries as well as the setting up of the monitoring and evaluation systems to report the progress.

Mr. Chairman,

The implementation of the VPoA constitutes an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment of the international community embedded in this Agenda is to leave no one behind, including countries in special needs.

My country attaches importance to the comprehensive high-level review of the first five years' implementation of the VPoA that will review the progress made, identify obstacles encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them. We believe that this global gathering will result with a concrete roadmap and political declaration towards full and effective implementation of the VPoA.

As a pre-conference event to the midterm review of the VPoA the Government of Mongolia in collaboration with UN-OHRLLS and other partners is going to organize the meeting on Best Practices in Corridor Development and Management for the Benefit of LLDCs and Transit Countries in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 29 and 30 October 2019 to facilitate sharing of experiences on effective transit transport corridor development, functioning and management for the benefit of LLDCs and transit countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to overcome development challenges Mongolia aims at contributing to the regional connectivity and economic integration through invigorating the flow of goods and people by connecting the region through roads, bridges and railways. In this regard, Mongolia is implementing the Mongolia-Russia-China Economic Corridor Program that aligns Mongolia's Development Road program to the Belt and Road initiative. It is also worth noting here that oil and gas pipeline projects connecting Russia and China through Mongolia are having a renewed attention enriching the content of the Program.

Mongolia can contribute to the regional energy supply, especially through the construction of renewable energy facilities. In this context, the President of Mongolia has called upon the prompt commencement of the North East Asian Super Grid project which can support the system during peak hours optimizing the energy use in the region.

Air connectivity is also pivotal to the regional connectivity and economic integration. In this regard, the Government has successfully implemented the project "the New Ulaanbaatar International Airport", which will start to contribute to both the national economy and the regional connectivity.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia is proud to contribute to the group of LLDCs through providing a platform for knowledge sharing, support for intra-LLDC collaboration and other South-South engagement as well as for global cooperation.

Today the Ulaanbaatar based International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries is actively engaging in global dialogues on LLDCs related issues through providing evidence-based advisory services and organizing regional and international meetings and workshops in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and research institutes.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to inform that the Government of Mongolia has been contributing USD 100,000 annually to the ITT for LLDCs. I would like to invite the member states and development partners to support the activities of this Center of Excellence dedicated to LLDCs and call upon all LLDCs that have not yet ratified the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of an International Think Tank for LLDCs to do so at their earliest convenience.

In conclusion, may I reiterate our continued support to the Group of the LLDCs.

I thank you for your attention.

