

Leaving no one behind: Financing Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 in LLDCs

***Remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Julio César Arriola,
Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations***

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- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to commend the Chair of the LLDC Group for organizing this event in the sidelines of the 2021 FFD Forum in collaboration with OHRLLS and the Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan.

With the COVID-19 pandemic far from over and entering its second year, it is indeed timely that we discuss means of implementation to, above all, ending it and to recover better and stronger afterwards.

Madam Moderator,

The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated pre-existing structural weaknesses, becoming a serious obstacle to progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Paraguay, like all the countries represented here, made unprecedented efforts to minimize the effects of the pandemic. Although these efforts have yielded a relatively successful result in managing the health crisis, they have undoubtedly come at a high cost for our economies.

In this context, it is now more important than ever to rally around the commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a path to access adequate financing to continue investing in sustainable development, which is the best and only way for post-pandemic recovery.

Madam Moderator,

I think we can all agree that COVID-19 will not end unless it is under control worldwide. That implies that we must vaccinate as much as possible as quickly as possible.

One aspect that must go hand in hand with financing is access to vaccines, which is the ultimate tool to overcome the pandemic, and will play a fundamental role in the velocity and strength of our recovery.

The most logical and moral response to achieve this goal must come from multilateralism. We believe that our discussions today will be key to address this crisis from the LLDCs perspective, and we reaffirm ourselves in the principle that **“no one is safe until we are all safe”**.

And this principle applies to both vaccines and to development finance.

I thank you very much for your attention.