



## **Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries**

*“Partnering for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and achieving sustainable development in LLDCs”*

### **Remarks by Hon. Minister of State - Prof. Nshuti Manasseh -**

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- **H.E Volkan Bozkır**, President of the 75<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly
- **H.E Mukhtar Tleuberdi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Global Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries
- **Distinguished Participants**,

It is a great honour to take part in this Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, as we renew our collective commitment towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries.

The current global context characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated the special development challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries, threatening to further marginalize our respective countries from access to international markets.

Indeed, our reliance on transit countries for international trade as well as the cross-border management measures implemented to contain COVID-19, have affected movement of goods and services to and from Landlocked Developing Countries.

In this context, The *Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries* adopted in December 2014, for the Decade 2014-2024, provides a direction and ambition to overcome the socio-economic impacts of this global health pandemic on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Furthermore, as we have entered into the UN decade of action, the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action will play a key role in the attainment by Landlocked Developing Countries of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**It is against this background and in line with the high-level Political Declaration adopted in New-York, in December 2019, that the Government of the Republic of Rwanda welcome the adoption of the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.**

We are committed to play a leading role in supporting the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

To this extent, I am honored to announce the intention of the Government of Rwanda to sign the multilateral agreement for the establishment of an “*International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries*”, as well as the nomination of a National Focal Point to spearhead the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Finally, as we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations charter and its principles, the Government of the Republic of Rwanda is calling for more international cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries as well as the United Nations System to further accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

I would like to conclude by expressing our sincere recognition to the Government of Kazakhstan, in its capacity of Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, for its outstanding leadership in the preparatory process of this Annual Ministerial Meeting.

**THANK YOU.**