

Statement of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UNOG H.E. Mr. Jamshed Khamidov at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, 4 November 2021, WTO, Geneva.

Your Excellencies,

I am pleased to participate at today's meeting and would like on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan to express our gratitude to Mongolia (Coordinator of LLDC Group in Geneva), Kazakhstan (Global Chair of LLDCs), UN-OHRLLS and the WTO for organizing the Ministerial Meeting on Trade.

The advances in technology and logistics as well as the market economy have not helped to overcome main challenges faced by the LLDCs in today's challenging world.

The Republic of Tajikistan belongs to the group of countries who are considered landlocked and of small economy. The efforts of my government are constantly directed to finding new markets and new trading partners. Tajikistan has been making great steps towards exit from the communication blockade and establishing new trade relations with other countries.

Tajikistan being a landlocked country itself is surrounded by landlocked countries and has one of the longest distances to the sea among the LLDCs, which is about 3,100 km. This makes the situation of Tajikistan even more challenging.

We believe that the implementation of the TFA will deepen LLDC's integration into the world trading system and accelerate the reforms in the relevant sectors.

Closer cooperation of these countries will allow to promote national products to foreign markets and create favorable conditions for attracting foreign direct investments.

We therefore welcome and call upon states to pay special attention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Vienna Programme of Action, the Astana Ministerial Declaration and other documents of relevance to the LLDC's and their implementation and look forward for positive consideration of the **MINISTERIAL DECLARATION** of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at the MC12.

We are confident that constructive cooperation within the WTO framework will promote for greater integration of LLDCs to global trade and looking forward for the fruitful MC12 for the benefit of all.

I thank you Chair.