

21st Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries
22 September 2022, 10.00 AM – 01.00 PM,
UN-ECOSOC CHAMBERS

Theme: Accelerating implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and building momentum towards the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
Ambassador Esen Altuğ, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Türkiye

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,

I would like to thank the Chair, Botswana for organizing this meeting.

I would also like to extend our congratulations to Ambassador Rabab Fatima on her appointment as High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Today's meeting offers a timely opportunity to discuss multifaceted challenges we continue to face.

The socio-economic crises caused by COVID-19 have placed a disproportionate impact on countries with special circumstances, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

The impacts of climate change, increased commodity prices, rising geopolitical tensions, and now global food insecurity further endanger development prospects.

These challenges pose a major threat to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are off-track on almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals and have to reverse this trend to get back on track.

Due to their lack of direct access to the sea, LLDCs face multiple developmental challenges at once.

They are highly reliant on their neighbors and have to pay relatively higher costs for trade.

Undiversified economies and export markets, logistical difficulties, as well as low foreign direct investment further exacerbate LLDCs' challenges.

Global challenges need global and coordinated responses.

No country can and should be left to shoulder such a burden alone.

Accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, which is an integral part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, will address the existing challenges more coherently.

The enhanced synergy between the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action for LLDCs will support efforts in achieving the SDGs.

In this regard, let me also congratulate Turkmenistan for the successful conclusion of the Ministerial Transport Conference of LLDCs held last month in Turkmenbashi.

LDC-Five Conference in 2023 and the Third UN Conference on LLDCs in 2024 will present further opportunity for reviewing the progress and scaling up international efforts on sustainable transport infrastructure.

Excellencies,

Economic recovery and sustainable development go hand-in-hand with technological progress.

Yet, the gains that come with technological advances are not shared by all of the LLDCs.

We must leverage the power of science, technology and innovation to bring about structural transformation.

To this end, Türkiye has played a critical role in the establishment of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs in Gebze in 2018.

We invite Landlocked Developing Countries that also fall into LDC category to benefit from the services of the Bank.

Türkiye, will continue to support LLDCs in their efforts for development and better connectivity.

We are ready to share our knowledge, experience and best practices with our LLDC friends.

Thank you.