



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

AT THE

**THE 22TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023
NEW YORK**

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**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

At the outset, I wish to commend the Chair for your excellent leadership of our group and assure you of our continued support as we prepare for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Chairperson,

The global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, COVID-19 pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts have served to cap the end of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in such a manner that further exacerbates the vulnerabilities of the LLDCs and render it harder to overcome their existing special challenges and needs owing to our landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints. While these global challenges have had very serious ramifications to the LLDCs, I wish to report that Uganda despite the special challenges has registered progress in the implementation of the six key priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action. Notably, simplification and modernisation of transit procedures in collaboration with other East African Community Partner States to enable seamless flow of transit cargo through the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System has greatly been improved. In addition, the

national paved road network and accessibility to electricity and innovations continued to increase.

Chairperson,

The Government of Uganda to remain on track in the remaining period of the Vienna Programme of Action implementation has continued to scale up investments in infrastructural development, including the refurbishment of major sections of Uganda's railway lines and construction and maintenance of roads; industrialization; information and communication technologies, and manufacturing to improve our industrial base and enhance our connectedness as well as competitiveness. We applaud the development partners and transit countries for the support extended to us in this regard.

Chairperson,

The Landlocked Developing Countries continue to face challenges that undermine their ability to address their vulnerabilities and fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the Third UN Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries LLDCs scheduled in Kigali, Rwanda from June 18-21, 2024 is a timely reminder of the urgent need for the next Programme of Action that calls for a reinvigorated global partnership to fully support the LLDCs to adequately address their existing special

challenges. It is through renewed and strengthened global partnerships at all levels that the LLDCs can better overcome their vulnerabilities and support accelerating the implementation of internationally agreed goals including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We view partnerships as a means to address the existing complex structural as well as emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. We therefore, endorse the call for the next Programme of Action that fully supports the LLDCs to adequately address the current constraints, particularly limited productive capacities, inadequate funding, high debt level, IFFs, commodity price volatility as well as emerging challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and disasters.

In conclusion,

I reiterate Uganda's commitment to continue championing the special needs of the LLDCs. We call upon the international community to extend the necessary support and cooperation in this regard.

I thank you.