

## LLDCs Ministerial Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> September

### **Statement by Mr. Satya S. Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs

H. E. Ministers of Foreign Affairs participating in this meeting,

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the invitation to participate in this important meeting.

UNEP recognises the special development needs of Land-locked developing countries (LLDCs) and is committed to support them in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its unprecedented socio-economic impact including on LLDCs, threatens to reverse progress so far achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Plan of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as derail the efforts to implement the Decade for Action.

COVID-19 is a reminder that human health is linked to the planet's health. The continued nature and climate crises, if unresolved, are likely to see economic and social costs escalate even further and exacerbate inequalities around the world. This prospect raises significant strains on the world's ability to reach sustainability targets and compromises the promise to leave no one behind.

UNEP is committed to support Member States in their response and recovery efforts. UNEP has put together a Covid-19 response based on four building blocks: (i) Medical humanitarian emergency phase; (ii) Transformational change for people and the planet; (iii) Investing to build back better and (iv) Modernizing global environmental governance.

UNEP welcomes the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs in the Remaining Five Years and notes that it provides an opportunity to identify opportunities and supporting measures to harness the potential for economic diversification, including by facilitating their participation in regional and global commodity value chains, as well as to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The UN Roadmap, a flexible tool, also provides the opportunity to support LLDCs to mitigate COVID19 impacts and ensure a green and resilient recovery.

UNEP wishes to reaffirm its commitment to support LLDCs in the implementation of the VPOA priority areas particularly in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building resilience of LLDCs to the adverse impacts of climate change, natural hazards and environmental degradation climate change adaptation and scaling-up of renewable energies.

UNEP is also committed to supporting countries as they recover from COVID-19 by focusing on sustainable consumption and production, green and decent jobs and just transitions for employees and sectors impacted most by shifts to greener and more sustainable economies.

UNEP's will continue working in partnership with other agencies to support countries to incorporate the environmental dimension into their sustainable development plans and policies, including their COVID-19 recovery plans.

Thank you