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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least  
Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and  
Small Island Developing States  
(UN-OHRLLS)**

**Statement by  
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**High Representative  
and  
Under- Secretary- General  
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States**

**Closing Session  
Meeting on Best Practices in Corridor Development and  
Management for the Benefit of LLDCs and Transit Countries**

**Novotel Ulaanbaatar Hotel  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Your Excellency, State Secretary Mr. Sandagdorj Batbold

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to briefly address this closing session.

Allow me to first convey special thanks and appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for hosting us here in Mongolia and co-organizing the meeting.

I thank you all for a very intense but productive meeting. We shared experiences and we identified best practices for corridor development and management.

It has been truly inspiring to hear the landlocked developing countries and transit countries discuss how you can work together and learn from each other's experiences.

I am sure, together and coming from so many regions, we can progress in "unlocking" the "locked" !

You have the will and as they say "where there is a will, there is a way" .

We heard from the LLDCs and transit countries in different regions and sub-regions about efforts to develop and operationalize transit transport and economic corridors. We heard they are a must to build connectivity and enhance competitiveness and trade potential.

We heard how LLDCs position themselves also as transit countries for their neighbours in their respective regions.

We discussed the legal frameworks required for corridor establishment and operationalization. We looked at the various forms of corridor management.

We discussed financing for corridor development.

We tried to identify some of the best practices for effective development, management and functioning of corridors.

There is a lot of positive, encouraging experience and knowledge we can build on. It is important for these positive trends , these various initiatives not just to be maintained but to be built on.

Overall, we saw convergence of opinion that there are numerous benefits for all countries when they promote the corridor approach and address the issue of transit.

For transit, we heard that work must include all it takes to speed up cross-border trade, more efficient transit, improved connectivity, enhanced competitiveness and trade potential, greater investment opportunities.

No one size will or can fit all !

The meeting showed that there are best practices that have been used in one region and that can be replicated or adapted to situations in other regions.

The meeting showed there are common aspirations and common challenges.

At the same time, I do take note of the challenges that you have highlighted.

These include:

limited financial assistance and access to funding,  
pervasive capacity constraints,  
challenges in the establishment of corridor management institutions,  
lack of readily available data and monitoring mechanisms,  
lack of harmonized standards and procedures and  
long times to negotiate multilateral transit agreements.

Challenges are there to be overcome so it was encouraging to hear in your presentations and discussion what you propose as recommendations to address these challenges.

A clear, a strong common message came out : the need for enhanced partnerships and co-operation at all levels – national, subregional, regional and international.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I now conclude my remarks.

Thank you all once again for your engagement.

I thank all the presenters for their important contributions to the deliberations of this meeting.

I thank the representatives of the international, multilateral and regional organizations for attending the meeting and briefing us on your activities on corridor development.

Your financial and technical support will be critical in helping LLDCs and transit countries in achieve their corridor development goals.

All the presentations for this meeting will be uploaded on the UN-OHRLLS website very shortly. A report of the meeting will be made available to you in the coming weeks.

As always, closing are beginnings and I look forward to our continued discussions on the topics of corridor development and management.

Finally, and as I mentioned last night, I hope that all of your countries will participate at the highest level at the Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action on 5 and 6 December. Please be a strong advocate for this when you go back to your capitals.

Let me assure you that OHRLLS will continue to facilitate discussions on corridor development and management, during the midterm review and beyond. The outcome of this meeting will provide valuable inputs for our way forward.

I wish you all a safe journey back home.

Thank you!