

**Address of Uzbekistan's PR at the Annual Ministerial Meeting of  
Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries**

(September 23, 2020)

Your Excellency Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Kazakhstan,

Your Excellency Katoa Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General-High  
Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,

Distinguished participants,

First of all, let me commend Kazakhstan for convening today's  
Annual Ministerial Meeting on partnering for accelerated implementation of  
the Vienna Program of Action and achieving sustainable development in  
LLDCs in the era of COVID-19.

I would like also to thank all previous distinguished speakers for their  
informative presentations.

Mr. Chair,

Since the adoption of the Vienna Program of Action, Uzbekistan has  
been taking coherent steps for its smooth implementation. Herein, special  
attention has been paid to promoting multilateralism by furthering regional  
cooperation which is one of the important prerequisites for achieving targets  
identified in the Vienna Program of Action and overall in the SDGs. Such  
cooperation acquires special significance today when the entire international  
community tries to tackle the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the current pandemic in Uzbekistan, we have  
been focusing all our efforts and resources on following directions:

-containing the spread of this dangerous virus by setting special  
funds;

-rendering assistance to neighboring countries in fighting coronavirus  
by providing them with needed medical equipment and supplies, foodstuffs  
and other products of first necessity;

-expanding collaboration with UN and its specialized agencies in  
mitigating the negative consequences of COVID-19.

In Uzbekistan, we support a notion that no one is safe until everybody is safe.

Mr. Chair,

As far as VPoA is concerned, the Central Asian countries for the past four years thanks to their joint efforts, have created a fundamentally new political environment in the region, raised the level of political trust, strengthened traditionally friendly and good neighborly relations among themselves that allowed to significantly expand multifaceted cooperation in the region.

In advancing such collaboration important role play regular consultative meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asian countries. Convening such meetings was initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Up to now two meetings in this format have been held in Nursultan and Tashkent. The third one is slated for this year in Kyrgyzstan.

In Uzbekistan, we've identified the following perspective areas for deepening regional cooperation which are fully aligned with the Vienna Program of Action for Land Locked Developing Countries.

**First**, expanding cooperation in transport-communication areas. Herein, special importance is given to diversifying the transport network in the region as an important driver for regional development.

**Second**, holding regular meetings on various levels to discuss issues pertaining to advancing regional collaboration in trade-economic, investment and energy areas.

**Third**, jointly addressing ecological and water issues in Central Asia.

Concluding, I would like to emphasize that Uzbekistan remains committed to continue close cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, neighboring states and other stake-holders in the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action for LLDCs and SDGs as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.