

**Выступление Президента РК, Председателя Группы
развивающихся стран, не имеющих выхода к морю, Токаева К.К.
на Мероприятии высокого уровня
«Международная долговая архитектура и ликвидность»
(*High-Level Event on International Debt Architecture and Liquidity*)
(29 марта 2021 г.)**

**Dear Secretary-General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

Speaking today on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, I thank Secretary-General Guterres, Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Holness for convening this high-level meeting.

Your initiative on Financing for Development has become a timely response to the early negative effects of the pandemic. We now need to build on last year's outcome to streamline all relevant international efforts, and to close the 'solidarity gap'.

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to acknowledge that LLDCs have faced a deadly combination of **declining** foreign investment, trade and remittances; **growing** debt burdens; and **severely reduced** fiscal spaces. As a result, LLDC economies contracted an average 2.4% in 2020, pushing many people into poverty, predominantly women, children and people from marginalized communities.

The modest recovery of 4.1% expected in 2021 for LLDCs will barely offset the losses of the last year. To deal with the coronavirus-induced financing gap, the following **steps are urgent**:

First, LLDCs supported my proposal put forward last May to **relieve the debt burden on national budgets in exchange for increased investments** in healthcare and regional development projects. Meanwhile, very little progress has been made on real debt-relief since then. **To rebuild, we must tackle the debt crisis.**

Second, it is critical that the World Bank's 160 billion dollar COVID response and the IMF's 1 trillion dollar lending capacity – be focused on the hardest hit countries. We call on the International Financial Institutions, UN system and other international and regional organizations to **prioritize the special needs of LLDCs** in their recovery efforts.

Third, the **UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the**

Vienna Program of Action takes on new urgency. We urge all development partners to deliver collectively across all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Agenda and to protect current ODA levels.

Fourth, we call on the international community to support the **development of strong health systems**. Underpinned by universal health coverage, they must focus on equitable access, quality and financial protection; and they must support the **timely and adequate procurement of vaccines**.

Fifth, it is critical for LLDCs to be financially reinforced in boosting the **resilient infrastructure and trade facilitation mechanisms**.

Sixth, LLDCs need to be supported to achieve the **digital transformation** to face current multifaceted challenges.

Finally, we urge the **private sector to partner fully** in all recovery efforts.

Kazakhstan in its national capacity donated to the **Global Humanitarian Response Plan** and provided **humanitarian aid** to several countries fighting the virus.

We have launched «**KazAID**» ODA agency to contribute to international efforts aimed at helping developing countries in the region and beyond.

We are also working on establishing the **UN Regional Centre for SDGs for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty**.

Kazakhstan is proud to have taken these steps in solidarity with other nations and multilateral organizations.

Dear colleagues,

We may expect that it will take years for vaccines to reach arms and for economies to recover. However, in the long-term, negative effects, unfortunately, **will likely linger for decades**.

And, if we do not recover fully leaving no one behind, we will not be able to address such urgent issues as **climate change or the next pandemic**.

Only collective action, scale and ambition **now** can make a difference. Every effort **now** to protect the most vulnerable populations, countries and economies will serve the interest of all in the future.

This is the only way. This is our responsibility.

Thank you.