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Asunción call for action

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the members of the Preparatory Committee for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries the outcome document of the high-level Latin America regional review meeting on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, entitled “Asunción call for action”, annexed to the present note.



Annex

Asunción call for action

Introduction

1. We, the Ministers and representatives of landlocked developing countries, together with stakeholders, including representatives of transit countries, development partners, United Nations agencies, international, regional and subregional organizations and the private sector, gathered in Asunción on 27 and 28 July 2023 for the high-level Latin America regional review meeting in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in 2024, to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in the Latin American region. This included the identification of achievements, gaps, constraints, emerging challenges and opportunities, the sharing of best practices, experiences and innovative approaches to accelerate post-pandemic recovery and achieve sustainable development in landlocked developing countries, as well as the identification of appropriate policy measures and concrete action-oriented recommendations at the national, regional and global levels needed to make the successor programme of action for landlocked developing countries truly transformative, especially to contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin American landlocked developing countries.
2. We recall the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in New York on 5 and 6 December 2019 and its high-level political declaration. We also recall the holding of the regional review meeting for the Latin American region in Santiago on 11 and 12 June 2019.
3. We reaffirm the global commitments to addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries made at major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
4. We stress the importance of unhindered, efficient and cost-effective access for landlocked developing countries to and from the sea by all modes of transport, on the basis of freedom of transit and other related measures, in accordance with applicable rules of international law, including regional conventions.
5. We welcome with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Rwanda to host the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Kigali.

Evaluation of progress

6. We recognize the progress made by the landlocked developing countries of the region in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; however, we remain concerned that the progress made is not sufficient for those countries to achieve sustainable development.
7. We note with great concern the fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook, the continuing negative effects of the pandemic, geopolitical tensions and the effects of climate change, all of which increase pressure on global inflation, energy and food prices, finance, supply chain disruptions and high

transportation and trade costs. These dynamics further constrain the ability of landlocked developing countries to achieve the specific goals and targets outlined in the six priorities for action of the Vienna Programme of Action, in addition to the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. We found that the transit and transportation-related vulnerabilities of landlocked developing countries were further exacerbated during the pandemic. Pandemic-related trade and transit restrictions led to higher costs in the movement of goods and services, disruptions in supply chains and longer transport times. As a result, exports from landlocked developing countries fell sharply, at a rate higher than the global average.

9. We note that some progress has been made since the launch of the Vienna Programme of Action to close missing links and expand transport infrastructure in Latin American landlocked developing countries. Significant investments were made to improve the state of road and rail networks in the two such countries in the region, including efforts to develop bioceanic corridors; however, these investments are still not sufficient for current needs. We emphasize the need to develop and connect the internal connecting sections of the Latin American landlocked developing countries to the existing transport infrastructure.

10. We recognize the improvements in river transport infrastructure along the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, which has led to an increase in the number of ports and the size of the available merchant fleet. Despite this progress, we note that challenges persist in the application of the rules of international law, including regional conventions, with respect to shared international waterways, especially in relation to port infrastructure, national regulations and the need for coordination between landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in addition to natural restrictions on navigation. In this regard, the effects of climate change have a particular impact on river flows, affecting navigation, energy production and trade. We also recognize the challenges in fostering collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of shared interests.

11. We underline the importance of freedom of transit and transit facilities, which plays a key role in the overall development of landlocked developing countries, and the need for these countries to have access to and from the sea, in accordance with applicable rules of international law, including regional conventions, in order to fully integrate into the global trading system.

12. We recognize that, in the development and implementation of information and communications technologies, both Latin American landlocked developing countries remain at lower levels compared to other countries in the region, despite the progress made in recent years in investments in technologies such as fibre optics, broadband expansion and the use of the Internet and smart communications equipment. Inequity in access and affordability, mainly considering the rural-urban and gender gaps, continues to be an important gap to close.

13. We note that the overall percentage of Internet penetration in both Latin American landlocked developing countries has been growing throughout the review period, nearly doubling the percentage of the population using the Internet between 2014 and 2021. However, we note with concern that both countries continue to have the lowest percentages of Internet usage compared to most countries in the region.

14. We note that both Latin American landlocked developing countries have made progress in improving their energy mix and that the population's access to electricity has advanced significantly since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action. We highlight the need to improve the energy mix in Latin American landlocked developing countries.

15. We note with concern the persistent transit problems faced by landlocked developing countries in the region, notwithstanding existing cooperative mechanisms to address this situation. Restrictions on cross-border and transit transport of goods as a result of the pandemic further increased trade difficulties and costs for those countries.

16. We recognize that, while international trade remains important for the economies of the landlocked developing countries, their share of world trade remained low during the implementation period of the Vienna Programme of Action. In 2022, all landlocked developing countries accounted for 1.12 per cent of world merchandise trade, while the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay accounted for 0.06 per cent and 0.04 per cent respectively.

17. We recognize that, during the review period, Latin American landlocked developing countries have worked diligently to diversify their export baskets and diversify their markets by targeting non-traditional markets. However, the structural transformation of the economy, innovation and the growth of modern business services remain major challenges in the face of rapid global expansion, and the merchandise exports of Latin American landlocked developing countries remain predominantly composed of primary products, making them highly vulnerable to the changing international environment, external shocks and climate change.

18. We further recognize the progress made by the landlocked developing countries of the region in creating an enabling environment for the continued growth of e-commerce and the opportunities created by the digital economy. We underscore the need to help landlocked developing countries to adapt quickly to the rapid transitions of the digital economy as a way to alleviate the challenges associated with their landlocked status and further integrate them into global trade by leveraging digital technologies.

19. We note with concern that the adverse effects of climate change, with its increasing frequency and intensity of disasters and their devastating impacts on landlocked developing countries, are undermining the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals. Latin American landlocked developing countries were increasingly affected by climate-induced disasters such as heatwaves, floods and droughts. These events weaken infrastructure (including railroads, roads, hydroelectric plants, housing, schools and public buildings), impact communication routes, such as international waterways, which are essential for trade, energy and transportation, and impose a direct cost on transit trade, which consequently limits the ability of Latin American landlocked developing countries to compete in global markets.

20. We recognize that both landlocked developing countries in the region are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change owing to their geographic location, the territorial distribution of their populations and their natural resource-dependent production systems. Alterations in weather patterns also affect the region's infrastructure and transportation system, including the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, causing increasing damage, disruption of trade and consequent economic losses. We also recognize that mitigation measures must take into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries so as not to impose a disproportionate burden on their development.

21. We note with concern that, in 2020, the landlocked developing countries together received 21.99 per cent of total official development assistance flows to developing countries and that the two Latin American landlocked developing countries received only 0.27 per cent and 0.23 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, we note with concern that, in terms of foreign direct investment, the two Latin

American landlocked developing countries were the two countries that received the least foreign direct investment in South America in 2022.

22. We express our deep concern that, without urgent course correction and strategic action to address their specific challenges, landlocked developing countries risk prolonged periods of crisis and uncertainty. We urge the development of tailored strategies that specifically target the structural and systemic obstacles that hinder the achievement of these countries' development objectives.

23. We note with appreciation the national reviews submitted by the Latin American landlocked developing countries, which underscore their commitment and diligent efforts to implement the Vienna Programme of Action and provide valuable information to address unique challenges and identify effective strategies to be incorporated into the preparatory process, including the regional and global reviews.

Call for action

24. We urge landlocked developing countries and transit countries in the region to continue to actively participate in the development of multimodal corridors and call on development partners to provide support for the development and maintenance of efficient and effective internal transport linkages, as well as transit transport corridors with infrastructure in good condition for all modes of transport, and smooth implementation of agreed legal frameworks, transit standards and policies, safety and security measures, and transport and trade facilitation measures.

25. We call for the promotion of inland transport links to connect with existing infrastructure, as well as the promotion of inland waterways and rail transport interconnected with road transport and ports for greater efficiency, and increased investment in inland waterways and rail infrastructure, as it offers lower transit costs and shorter travel times than road transport. We also call for the promotion of interoperable regional transport networks and multimodal transport systems.

26. We call for the harmonization, simplification and standardization of transit regulations for landlocked developing countries and transit countries in the region, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, for the exercise of freedom of transit by landlocked developing countries in a manner that does not infringe on their legitimate interests.

27. We recognize that river transport is essential for the landlocked developing countries and transit countries in the region, and encourage these countries to continue to work, on the basis of freedom of transit and other related measures, in accordance with applicable international law, including regional conventions, on projects to strengthen transboundary water resources management and cooperation and address the difficulties associated with navigability, ranging from climatic conditions, especially droughts, to logistics and coordination issues between landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

28. We call for increased international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects that will help to enable the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in infrastructure development and maintenance. In addition, we urge international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and development partners to consider infrastructure financing windows that provide preferential financing to landlocked developing countries. We note that, in the post-pandemic recovery process, international financial institutions should adopt a context-appropriate

approach to landlocked developing countries in their risk assessment to avoid debt crises and the risk of fiscal crises.

29. We call for strengthening capacity-building to design bankable projects and also call on the United Nations system, development partners, multilateral development banks, and international and regional organizations to provide capacity-building support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries on transport infrastructure development.

30. We invite landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners to address bottlenecks in landlocked developing countries beyond unilateral policy interventions by designing a corridor-wide transit system involving global logistics operators that contribute best practices such as those of high-performing countries in logistics.

31. We further call for increased investment to improve air transport connectivity and the further development of the airline industry in general, as a driver of growth for multiple sectors, including tourism. We also stress the importance of the role of the private sector in the provision of air transport services. We highlight the importance of technical support to better understand the nature and extent of the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to suggest coordinated policies to promote air connectivity, aviation liberalization and the reduction of air transport costs in those countries.

32. We urge landlocked developing countries to establish favourable conditions for the development of the digital economy and e-commerce by creating an appropriate environment that includes the necessary policies, and legal and regulatory frameworks to support the development of information and communications technologies and further call for increased international cooperation to support landlocked developing countries through increased financial contributions for investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, including a greater push for public-private partnerships, and we also urge landlocked developing countries and transit countries to collaborate in the establishment of such infrastructure.

33. We underscore the need to strengthen national and international digital connectivity, as well as to promote the hosting of content at the national level and the establishment of national traffic exchange points, a fundamental step to bridge the digital divide in the region, and as a strategic catalyst to increase competitiveness, reduce costs and enable Latin American landlocked developing countries to take full advantage of the benefits of rapid digital advances at the global level. This progress is vital for their sustainable development, socioeconomic growth and inclusive participation in the digital economy.

34. We encourage landlocked developing countries to increase investment and create an enabling environment for research and development, as well as the development of viable strategies that can result in increased competitiveness and structural economic transformation. We also underscore the need for continued support from development partners to enhance productive capacities and economic diversification of landlocked developing countries, share innovative technologies, scientific knowledge and technical know-how, and best practices, build institutional and human capacity, and support landlocked developing countries to undertake effective partnerships.

35. We urge both Latin American landlocked developing countries to continue to focus their efforts on expanding the telecommunications system to achieve rapid and secure market access; to continue developing broadband infrastructure throughout their territory; to facilitate Internet access and reduce tariffs by increasing competition

in the sector. Similarly, efforts should be intensified to reduce the digital divide, both in terms of gender and between rural and urban areas.

36. We also encourage landlocked developing countries to improve their efforts to integrate into e-commerce. In this regard, we encourage international partners to provide training to help landlocked developing countries to address gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks and develop digital skills.

37. We call on landlocked developing countries to adjust regulatory frameworks and maintain investments in order to accompany the process of diversification of the energy mix and consolidate renewable and sustainable energy sources. We also urge the international community to increase investments and technical support to promote large-scale renewable energy in landlocked developing countries.

38. We urge landlocked developing countries, transit countries and their trading partners to further enhance the implementation of their obligations under all relevant international, regional and bilateral agreements, including the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation, to improve transit in a manner consistent with their trade and development objectives and call on development partners, the private sector and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to increase their support to landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement these agreements.

39. We recognize the need for innovative approaches to comprehensively address transit, transport and trade facilitation issues, and call on the international community to support landlocked developing countries in overcoming the constraints arising from rising transport and logistics costs that hinder their effective participation in regional value chains and prevent them from leveraging their comparative advantages.

40. We call for the full implementation of regulatory frameworks to promote smooth transit and encourage good practices and mutual cooperation in accordance with existing transit treaties between landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

41. In addition, we urge the international community to support landlocked developing countries and transit countries in implementing the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation, paying particular attention to the areas identified by landlocked developing countries as requiring assistance, including human resources and training, legislative and regulatory framework, information and communications technology, infrastructure and equipment, improved freedom of transit, tariffs, formalities, border-crossing cooperation and technical cooperation. We also urge transit and other countries to implement corresponding actions that will have a positive impact on trade facilitation of landlocked developing countries.

42. We encourage the landlocked developing countries of the region to continue formulating policies and strategies aimed at diversifying their export structure and adding value to their products to expand their participation in sustainable regional and global value chains.

43. We urge landlocked developing countries to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the services sector to achieve structural economic transformation and harness the benefits of trade in services and services-facilitated trade. We support improved data collection to understand trends in the services sector and strengthen the information base for trade policy and negotiations.

44. We call on the international community to support landlocked developing countries in advancing structural economic transformation, with a view to developing productive capacities and increasing value added in the manufacturing and

agricultural sectors, further integrating those countries into global and regional value chains, fostering economic diversification, leveraging the demographic dividend through human capital development, and promoting formal and decent employment.

45. We also urge the international community to support landlocked developing countries to further promote economic diversification, focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in non-traditional sectors.

46. We reaffirm our commitment to address climate change in accordance with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and call on development partners as well as relevant regional and international organizations to continue supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and strengthening resilience in Latin American landlocked developing countries.

47. We urge developed countries that are party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to fully meet the \$100 billion target as a matter of urgency and by 2025 and stress the importance of transparency in meeting their commitments.

48. We agree on the need to consolidate positions in climate change discussions and formalize the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process, in order to enhance our coordination, project a strong voice and work with relevant stakeholders to advance the interests of landlocked developing countries on climate-related issues, especially with respect to climate change vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation, and call on Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twenty-eighth session, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2023, to consider the impact of climate change on landlocked developing countries in the deliberations and outcomes.

49. We note with great concern that Latin American landlocked developing countries are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and continue to be heavily affected by floods, storms, droughts, forest fires and other hazards. We are concerned about the economic, social and environmental impacts of sudden and slow-onset disasters on landlocked developing countries, as well as the impacts of disasters in transit countries on the economies of landlocked developing countries, all of which impose a direct cost on transit trade, which consequently limits the ability of Latin American landlocked developing countries to compete in the global marketplace.

50. We encourage partnerships to strengthen the understanding of climate risk and, more broadly, systemic risk and its application in decision-making in landlocked developing countries, including through disaster risk reduction education, integrated risk management, academic and scientific capacity-building, the use of cutting-edge technologies, and support for traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge and practices.

51. We invite climate finance providers to improve access for landlocked developing countries and encourage the allocation of more resources to ex ante instruments to increase resilience, including new financing approaches that incentivize disaster risk reduction and sustainable reduction of landlocked developing countries' vulnerabilities to climate change and natural disasters.

52. We recognize that domestic resource mobilization is key to achieving the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, this is being severely affected by the lingering effects of the pandemic and other overlapping crises. We underscore the importance of ensuring enabling policy and regulatory frameworks and transparency, both in the national and global contexts, including for financial institutions, development banks and other relevant agencies in this regard.

We note that these institutions, when granting financing and concluding financial instruments with landlocked developing countries, should grant flexible and preferential terms, with a context-specific approach to risk assessment, taking into account the landlockedness of these countries.

53. We reiterate our call on donor countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitments, and further urge them to systematically take into account the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries that fall into the category of middle-income countries, where appropriate. We also request that they ensure the quality and effectiveness of aid, especially through predictability and accountability in line with recipient countries' national priorities.

54. We urge development partners to support the implementation of integrated national financing frameworks, such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, and impact investments, to mobilize resources for sustainable infrastructure development and diversification of the economies of Latin American landlocked developing countries.

55. We encourage the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation as complementary avenues for resource mobilization and knowledge-sharing, recognizing their value in enhancing the growth and sustainable development of landlocked developing countries through the exchange of best practices, human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

56. We call for new financial instruments that harness the potential of digital innovations for financing national sustainable development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, including digital finance platforms, innovative digital services, digitization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and domestic resource mobilization. We also call for a dedicated financing mechanism to provide catalytic financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin American landlocked developing countries to mobilize sustainable private investments that promote the Goals and help to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and other overlapping crises, as well as support resilience-building for future crises and shocks.

57. We underscore the need to improve Latin American landlocked developing countries' access to affordable, long-term financing by strengthening cooperation with international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, regional development banks and private sector investors. In addition, we urge them to systematically consider the unique needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries classified as middle-income countries, where appropriate.

58. We call for reform of the international financial architecture so that landlocked developing countries can access resources from multilateral and regional financial institutions more easily and at a lower cost.

59. We welcome the Sustainable Development Goals stimulus plan launched by the Secretary-General to address both short-term urgencies and the need for long-term sustainable development financing through a significant increase in financing for sustainable development of at least US\$500 billion per year, to be delivered through a combination of concessional and non-concessional financing.

60. We urge the international community to consider the structural particularities of Latin American landlocked developing countries which, in addition to their landlockedness, require additional efforts to stimulate their development, which affects their fiscal space and in turn impacts the policy space they require to support their sustainable development. This situation creates a bottleneck in development

financing and requires responses and solutions tailored to the specificities of these countries.

61. We request the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in close cooperation and coordination with the relevant United Nations system and other international organizations and United Nations resident coordinators to provide the necessary support to landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the new programme of action in coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Vienna Programme of Action and other development frameworks, through raising global awareness, mobilizing international support and resources for landlocked developing countries, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and reaching out to all stakeholders, including through partnerships with civil society and the private sector, to increase support for those countries.

62. We request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to increase its support for Latin American landlocked developing countries by promoting research, providing insightful policy advice and strengthening capacity-building efforts relevant to these issues. Given the cross-border nature of the development challenges of landlocked developing countries, we further request regional assets of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission, to promote strategies that take into account the special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries, including but not limited to the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, and to support landlocked developing countries by deploying regional knowledge and expertise to assist United Nations resident coordinators and country teams.

63. We call upon United Nations resident coordinators and their country teams to enhance effective and tailored support to Latin American landlocked developing countries, building on their neutrality and new capacities to channel the diverse expertise of the entire United Nations system. We urge United Nations entities to strengthen synergies in support of the needs and priorities of landlocked developing countries. In addition, we encourage resident coordinators to effectively convene partners and stakeholders, expand access to Sustainable Development Goals funding, and ensure the integration of the priorities of the next programme of action into the Cooperation Frameworks.

64. We strongly urge the Secretary-General and Member States to strengthen the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to enable them to provide substantive support to landlocked developing countries in their efforts to meaningfully engage in intergovernmental discussions and implement the programme of action for landlocked developing countries and the 2030 Agenda.

65. We stand ready to partner with all relevant stakeholders to work towards addressing the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. The preparatory process for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and other important events to be held in the run-up to the Conference, such as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, COP 28 and the thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, provide opportunities for us to work towards a transformative successor agenda for action to the Vienna Programme of Action, as it is in our mutual interest. We believe that the thirteenth Ministerial Conference will be a special opportunity to propose the

recognition of landlocked developing countries as a specific category of countries within the World Trade Organization system.

66. We note the importance of integrating the priorities of the forthcoming programme of action for landlocked developing countries into national and sectoral development strategies. We call on the Office of the High Representative, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide the necessary support, including capacity-building through a specific training programme.

67. We stress the need for a strong follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new programme of action to monitor the implementation and achievement of the goals. We urge the Office of the High Representative, together with the regional expertise of the Economic Commission and the country-context expertise of United Nations resident coordinators with their country teams, to support these initiatives. We also urge that efforts be made in support of landlocked developing countries to strengthen capacities to effectively measure progress.

68. We recognize the need to strengthen statistical capacities within Latin American landlocked developing countries to enable accurate data collection and analysis. This is critical to monitor progress, understand demographic dynamics, make evidence-based decisions and formulate policies conducive to sustainable development even in emergency contexts. We therefore call on development partners, the United Nations system and other international organizations to support landlocked developing countries in improving their statistical capacities, which can further facilitate the effective implementation of their national development plans and the programme of action.

69. We recognize the role of the national focal points of landlocked developing countries in strengthening coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on issues related to those countries, as well as their critical role in the preparatory process for the landlocked developing countries. We call upon the Office of the High Representative, in partnership with other relevant United Nations entities, to enhance the technical capacities of national focal points.

70. We emphasize the fundamental importance of the private sector as a key partner in achieving significant transformations, with a view to the next programme of action for landlocked developing countries. The private sector plays a critical role as an engine of economic growth and a facilitator of international trade.

71. We recognize the difficulties that landlocked developing country status represents for the private sector in achieving full participation in international trade and in terms of comparative advantage.

72. We urge countries to ensure that they collaborate with the private sector to identify barriers, propose solutions, finance infrastructure, address existing policy gaps and provide a competitive domestic environment for international trade actors seeking to formulate innovative strategies and policy recommendations, driving development, innovation and ensuring access to productive employment that generates fair incomes, workplace security and social protection for all.

73. We urge all States of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, in particular landlocked developing countries, transit countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to actively participate in the Conference at the highest possible level.

74. We commit to implement the calls for action contained in this outcome document at the national, regional and global levels and to accelerate progress on

agreed policies, programmes and investments, while recognizing that some of the calls for action will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance to be effectively implemented by landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

75. We submit this outcome document to the session of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee as an input to the outcome document of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Vote of thanks

76. We express our deep appreciation to the people and Government of Paraguay for organizing and hosting this meeting.

77. We express our appreciation for the substantive and organizational support of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Paraguay.

78. We appreciate the participation and substantive contributions of Latin American landlocked developing countries, transit countries, development partners, United Nations system organizations, multilateral and regional development banks, along with other international, regional and subregional organizations, with their respective development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders.
