

STATEMENT BY MONGOLIA

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Statement by
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at the Eleventh Session of the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

16 June 2004
São Paulo, Brazil

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of my Government, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Government of Brazil for its warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Eleventh Session of UNCTAD. I also wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the Presidency of this session and I am fully confident that under your able leadership the Session will accomplish its tasks successfully.

Mr. President,

International economic and trade cooperation is essential for sustainable growth of the world economy. Over the past few decades globalization has, on balance, brought tremendous benefits to the world, but also greater interdependence among nations. Such interdependence, in turn, calls for much closer international cooperation in order to make the world economic and financial integration more inclusive and beneficial for all players. On the other hand, globalization has also brought challenges for development, and it creates difficulties to the developing world. Some of them have been benefited from globalization, but others, specially, countries with small and vulnerable economies, including landlocked developing countries, are facing greater challenges and remain rather marginalized in the world economy.

International trade is one of most important pillars of a strategy to promote global growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Thus, we believe that role of the UNCTAD should be strengthened in achieving our development goals and targets, in particular MDGs. We share the view that UNCTAD should

be a substantially contributing body in implementation of outcomes of recent major global conferences and summits, including the Doha Ministerial Declaration and Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the WSIS.

As focal point of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development, expertise of UNCTAD is utmost importance to address key issues of developing countries and coordination and synergies of its major pillars, namely consensus-building, research and policy analysis and technical assistance should be further strengthened and enhanced.

Mr. President,

Official development assistance continues to play an essential role for financing for development. There has been some progress in increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels since Monterrey. It is essential to further explore innovative ways to increase ODA and to accelerate progress towards meeting the MDGs. We believe that better aid coordination and multiyear commitments are key steps in making development assistance more effective. Despite several initiatives undertaken over the last years by the international community, the debt crisis persists as one of the main constrains for the development of developing countries, especially those with vulnerable economies. There is a need for the international community, particularly the donor countries and international financial institutions to adopt an effective, comprehensive and equitable solution to those challenges.

Mr. President,

The landlocked developing countries are the group of countries with special constrains in responding to challenges of globalization. They have to cope with many factors that hamper their economic development. Remoteness and isolation from world markets are major challenge for LLDCs. For instance, in case of Mongolia, it is separated by distance of more than 1,600 kilometers to reach the nearest maritime ports. These geographic disadvantages and difficulties, inadequate infrastructure, excessive transit transport cost make the case of the LLDCs a vulnerable one. Thus, the Government of Mongolia attaches utmost importance to the Almaty Programme of Action, the first global action plan that provides a framework for international cooperation in addressing the special needs of the landlocked developing countries. We strongly believe that its effective and timely implementation will help landlocked developing countries to raise their economic growth and be actively engaged with trade partners in the world markets.

Mongolia encourages activities strengthening partnership with all stakeholders, including effective engagements with transit neighbours. We believe that the expected conclusion of the ongoing negotiations on tripartite agreement on transit transportation between Mongolia, China and Russia would spur an increase in trade and investment and positively influence economic cooperation in the region.

The international community has recognized the special needs and problems of the LLDCs and agreed to work together to integrate the LLDCs effectively into the world economy. While landlocked and transit developing countries bear their primary responsibility for implementing measures, particularly those contained in the Almaty Programme of Action, designed to strengthen their cooperative and collaborative efforts, the international donor community, including financial and development institutions, should play a vital role with their support, assistance and development programmes and transfer of technologies in order to create efficient transit transport systems. The challenge is so formidable that it is beyond the ability of landlocked developing countries to deal with by themselves. In this respect, I would like to recall the Ministerial Communique of Landlocked Developing Countries adopted on the 13th June 2004, here in São Paulo.

The Government of Mongolia attaches the importance to the current negotiations on market access for agricultural and non-agricultural goods and we hope that particular attention will be given to the product of special interest to landlocked developing countries in that process. In addition to that, I wish to emphasize the importance of trade facilitation measures and implementation of the technical assistance programme which has been called for by the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

Mr. President,

Taking this opportunity, I wish to express our gratitude to the UNCTAD for its continued support and assistance extended to my Government. I also would like to congratulate UNCTAD on commemoration of its 40th anniversary which coincides with current session. My delegation is confident that UNCTAD will continue its vital role in achieving our development goals and objectives.

In conclusion let me stress that our nations only by working together and cooperating with one another can succeed in achieving the comprehensive common goals that we assumed jointly.

I thank you Mr. President.