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STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR H.E. DR. MWABA P. KASESE BOTA
ON BEHALF OF THE LLDCs GROUP**

**AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THE
OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA**

ON

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

New York
23rd July, 2015

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mwaba Kasese-Bota as Chair of the LLDCs at the Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (Session on Means of Implementation) 23rd July, 2015.

Co-facilitators,
Excellencies,

I have honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Landlocked developing Countries on this very important session on Means of Implementation of the draft Outcome document of the post 2015 development Agenda.

The LLDCs group is convinced that Means of Implementation is critical to the successful realisation and achievement of set priorities in the Vienna Programme of Action and for this Agenda, the agreed goals and targets. In the context of strengthened and renewed Global Partnership, all the critical components of the Means of Implementation and especially the specific reference to financing, Technology and Innovation and Technology transfer, trade, capacity building and institutions are at the core. Clear commitment for ensuring that countries with specific development challenges, especially for the LLDCs should be addressed.

While the Vienna Programme of Action recognizes that the development of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself, especially through Domestic Resources, it underscores the importance of strengthened and expanded partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours, their development partners and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges of landlockedness. The strengthened commitments to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and of the Vienna Programme of Action will work towards alleviating Poverty and the specific challenges faced by LLDCs.

Our Group supports and welcomes the reference to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the MOI section of the draft outcome document and that it is supportive to the Means of implementation in this Post 2015 Development Agenda.

ODA remains a critical source of external finance for many LLDCs. The Vienna Programme of Action calls upon development partners to urgently fulfil existing ODA assistance and ensure that ODA takes into account the specific situation and needs of each country. ODA should be directed in particular towards developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure. This is critical for structurally transforming LLDCs' economies and helping SMEs participate better in international trade.

The LLDC group requests for increased access to trade as a means of implementation to achieve the SDGs and stress need of technical and financial support for implementing the WTO trade facilitation agreement which has great potential for reducing the high trade costs that the group face. Aid for Trade is critical for assisting LLDCs with infrastructure development, expanding trade, linking to global and regional value chains, implementing trade policies and trade facilitation measures and by providing other trade-related capacity development assistance.

Technology and innovation are critically important for LLDCs, in particular given that most of their exports are dominated by low-value primary commodities and products with very low technology content. The LLDCs group wishes to emphasise that the development, transfer and absorption of technology and fostering innovation can assist the LLDCs move up the value chain faster and drastically reduce the cost of transport.

LLDCs are also faced with limited productive capacities. LLDCs require means of implementation to build their capacity in areas such as trade facilitation; customs and border management; trade negotiations; how to utilize the trade preferences; how to effectively implement international conventions; trade policy formulation and implementation and institutional capacity. The international community should also support LLDCs in strengthening their capacity to effectively mobilize adequate domestic resources, including external resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities, and to support national plans to implement all the SDGs.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for development banks, including regional banks, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit related regional infrastructure in LLDCs, including completing missing links and improving regional connectivity.

The LLDCs stress the importance of building enduring partnerships. The Vienna Programme of Action stresses renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners and strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors. The private sector's role in fulfilling means of implementation demands is key. Targeted financial and technical support is needed to build institutional and human capacities in LLDCs aimed at creating conducive domestic environment and at improving their ability to attract increased and more diversified foreign direct investment, in particular in high-value added sectors.

South-South and triangular cooperation plays an important role in complementing ODA to LLDCs, through its contribution to human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance, the sharing of best practices and technology transfer.

Co facilitators

The LLDCs group is therefore requesting the following addition to **target 17.11**, after “share of global exports”: **“and significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports...”**

In **target 17.18.**, the insertion of “landlocked developing countries” after “least developed countries” is requested by the group.

The full proposed Language will be submitted to the co-facillitators in writing.

In conclusion, the means of implementation of the SDGs and the post 2015 development Agenda need to take into account and acknowledge the special challenges and needs of the LLDCs and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme in order for the LLDCs not to be left behind.

I thank you.