

Check against delivery

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister
– Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Chair
of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries at the
session of the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on
Restoring the Conditions for SDG Progress in African Countries,
Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing
Countries**

(New York, 8 July 2021, 3.00-5.00pm, pre-recorded video statement)

Time-limit: 3 minutes

**Distinguished colleagues,
Dear participants,**

It is my great honour to address the 2021 High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in my capacity as its Chair.

The past year marked the beginning of the Decade of Action, instituted to deliver the SDGs by 2030. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more difficult to achieve these targets on time.

The vulnerable countries, including LLDCs stand most exposed to the socio-economic threats of the pandemic's negative aftermath. Over 80% of LLDCs are commodity dependent, and commodities account for more than 60% of their total exports.

The decline in the global demand for commodities has left many LLDCs in debt distress. According to the World Trade Organization, as the world trade recovered and the global exports grew by 7% towards the end of 2020, LLDC exports continued to decline by 8%.

Thus, designing stimulus packages should also take these vulnerabilities into account to ensure that we “leave no one behind”. The stimulus plans must be phased out slowly to ensure full and sustainable recovery.

It is imperative that the recovery strategies should include a strong structural component to reduce dependence on external financial flows and global markets. LLDCs need to develop more value-added, knowledge-intensive and industrialized economies, underpinned by a more competitive and efficient services sector.

Building the capacity of the private sector, especially the MSMEs, is equally important to achieve structural transformation in LLDCs. Facilitating FDI to LLDCs is a key to build the productive capacities, as well as technology transfer.

Indeed, adequate international financial and technological assistance is instrumental for countries in special situations to building productive capacities, transport, energy and ICT infrastructure.

President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev during the High-Level Meetings on Financing for Development has

underscored, on behalf of LLDCs, the urgency of such important measures to “Build Back Better” and more efficient.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to underscore that the United Nations and its agencies have a unique set of capacities, expertise, partnering networks and the necessary infrastructure to achieve these goals.

Last year under our Chairmanship, with the support of the Secretary-General Guterres, we adopted the Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme. It is a living document comprising more than 130 projects being implemented by more than 60 UN and other international agencies. We expect that efficient implementation of this Roadmap will assist LLDCs in overcoming the crisis.

In this regard, we look forward to seeing constant coordinated implementation of the Roadmap and the efficient active efforts of the UN agencies, other international stakeholders, including the Governments.

I thank you.
