

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

Opening Plenary
General statements by regional groups
Speaker: LLDCs

Monday, 16 September 2013

*Not checked against delivery **

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60th Session of the Trade and Development Board – UNCTAD
Intervention of Paraguay – Land Locked Developing Countries

Dear President, Ambassador

Dear General Secretary, Mr. **Mukhisa Kituyi**,

Dear Ambassadors and Colleagues,

It is an honour for my delegation to take the floor this time on behalf of the Group of Land Locked Developing Countries. As you know Mister President, our Group is very active and well recognized in different international economic forums, but the cornerstone of our actions is doing in this house. Now, we are in the middle of the revision of the Almaty Programme of Action, which we want to strengthen as well as include new issues that will matter for our development in times to come.

Firstly, I would like to start thanking UNCTAD for all the support we received in the LLDCs consolidation process, especially for its presence in all of our meetings as well as for the preparation of a large variety of publications.

In this context, we consider this 60th session of the Trade and Development Board will give us the necessary clarity about trending issues that affect the world economy, especially in this scenario of recovering from one of the most severe economic crises.

We highlight that most topics included in the agenda are directly connected with aspects affecting the path of growth and development for developing and least developed countries, in particular to Land locked developing countries. We share the view about the urgent need for structural diversification, especially in productive transformation, plus real access to global and regional value chains as two of the best alternatives as a tool to promote a better insertion to the global economy.

In this sense, in discussions that will take place in Item 4 “Interdependence: Towards new patterns in global growth”, we will address a very important issue from a long-term perspective, showing the rising importance of several developing regions as additional drivers of global economic growth.

As you know Mr. President, all LLDCs suffer from a geographical disadvantage that hampered our connection to global markets; this situation has generated an asymmetric interdependence with our neighbours. For example, a recent research shows that the average gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of LLDCs is about 43% lower than that of their neighbouring coastal countries.

In addition to this, we are also interested in continuing discussions about the Evolution of International trading system, which are extremely important for ensure the non-discriminatory participation of developing and least developing countries in global trade.

Our vision on international trade as a tool for boosting employment, promote the access to knowledge, skills and technologically advance capital goods is well reflected in this year report, and we would like to analyse in depth in the coming meetings.

In this sense, LLDCs are given special look to the development of our services sector; we appreciate the work and recommendation received from the UNCTAD in this matter. As indicated in the report, services account for the largest share of output in all countries, is crucial for enhancing and facilitating trade. Some sectors are critical for lifting the poor out of poverty through employment. For LLDC, in particular, has an enormous significance, as it can promote activities in areas less sensitive to transport cost. In this regard, we believe development in services is crucial to our goal of building productive capacity and promote diversification of our economic structure.

Moreover, discussions on the evolution of international trading system is very important for us taking into account its contribution for eradicating poverty within the context of sustainable development in the framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

I would like to conclude my intervention referring to a very important topic that we will discuss in this 60th session: "Global Value Chain and Development". About 60% of global trade consists of trade in intermediate goods and services that are

incorporated at various stages in the production process for final consumption.

Besides the fact that the majority of developing countries are increasingly participating in Global Value Chain, for LLDCs, as a consequence of our specific situation, real access to global value chain is still a difficult and high hanging fruit. High transportation cost, others logistic burden, plus the lack of an adequate training and skills of our human resources have been struggled our chances to gain access to global value chains.

For these reasons this issue is a priority for our group, and we keep recalling the attention of the international economic community in order to contribute with us to achieve this goal.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my speech reiterating our willingness to contribute to get positive results in our coming discussions.

Thanks

Statement by H.E. Mr. Juan Esteban Aguirre, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Paraguay, on behalf of the Land Locked Developing Countries, at the opening session of the Trade and Development Board - Sixtieth session

Monday, 16 September 2013

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Mr. General Secretary, Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi,
Excellencies and Colleagues,

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