

MONGOLIA

Agenda item 2 (a)

Committee of the Whole I, 69th Session of the Commission

Regional Final Ten Year Review of the Almaty Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by extending my delegation's warm congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, as you assume the onerous responsibilities to steer our work during this session. I pledge my delegation's full support to you in discharge of your vital duties. Our sincere felicitations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

The Almaty Programme of Action adopted in 2003 has proved its importance in addressing the special needs and challenges of the developing landlocked countries. In pursuit of this Programme over the last 10 years many LLDC meetings and other actions have been undertaken which made their contribution towards attaining our common development goals. Mongolia also had the honour to host one of such events – a high-level dialogue meeting in Ulaanbaatar in 2011.

It should be noted that the landlocked developing countries in close cooperation with both their transit neighbors and development partners have achieved certain progress in the priority areas of the Almaty Programme of Action. In this connection my delegation would like to express our appreciation ^{of} ~~with~~ the work done by ESCAP, the Office of the High Representative for the LLDCs as well as other development partners in support of the landlocked developing countries.

However, landlocked developing countries in the region are still grappling with many continuing and emerging challenges caused by their geographical handicaps and exacerbated by recent financial, food and fuel crises, by volatility of commodity prices, climate change and other external shocks. These challenges do not only

affect their economic growth, but have major implications for social and environmental aspects of development, thus affecting smooth implementation of both the Almaty Programme of Action and respective MDGs of our countries.

We ~~also~~ encourage an expeditious implementation of the Aid for trade initiative with targeted support for landlocked developing countries in areas such as capacity building for the formulation of trade policies, implementation of trade facilitation measures and international agreements, investment into infrastructure for transport, and strengthened productive capacity with a view to increase their competitiveness in the world market.

Mr. Chairman,

As a landlocked country, Mongolia has undertaken actions at the national level to implement the Almaty Programme of Action. We have set up a national committee on trade and transport facilitation, composed of representatives of the government, private sectors and NGOs which serves as a nationwide coordinator for the Almaty Programme of Action. With an active participation of all relevant stakeholders we have been implementing a comprehensive sector development program entitled "Transit Mongolia" which also incorporates the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Mongolia is currently experiencing an unprecedented fast economic growth which presents not only tremendous opportunities, but also poses new challenges. As the current economic benefits are mainly generated from the mining sector, we believe that the diversification of investment opportunities, improvement of infrastructure, enhancement of transportation capacities are vital for ensuring a sustainable development of our country.

Mr. Chairman,

Every 6th member of the United Nations is a landlocked developing country. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world and high transport costs continue to impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic

development of the landlocked developing countries. We believe that the creation of the International Think tank to improve the analytic capacity of the landlocked developing countries will contribute to the intensified cooperation in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and relevant MDGs.

The Government of Mongolia is currently working on the plan of actions to be taken upon entering into force of the Multilateral Agreement of 24 September 2010 on the Establishment of the International Think Tank for the Landlocked Developing Countries. The government decided to allocate the core funds for the institution-building and strengthening of its capacity in the years of 2013–2015 and providing an office space for the Think Tank within the common UN house in Ulaanbaatar.

As of today, 7 landlocked developing countries (Afghanistan, Armenia, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Niger and Paraguay) have signed the Multilateral Agreement. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all relevant parties, especially countries in the Asia-Pacific region to accede to the Multilateral Agreement at their earliest convenience, in order to bring the Think Tank to its full operation.

We wish to re-affirm that Mongolia will continue our cooperation with the member countries and international organizations for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action. We co-sponsored the resolution "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2003–2013 in the Asia–Pacific region" submitted By Laos for consideration at this 69th session of the Commission.

Thank you for your attention.