

**COMMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
ON ITEM 2 - SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED
AND LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES /**

(A) FINAL REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE ALMATY PROGRAMME OF ACTION

We welcome the Vientiane Consensus document reflecting the outcome of the Euro-Asian Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action and thank the Lao PDR for transmitting this document to us as the Global Chair of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries.

As the Vientiane Consensus document elaborates, Landlocked Developing Countries and transit developing countries have achieved significant progress in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action. We wholeheartedly applaud this progress.

Nevertheless we are aware that there exists number of challenges in moving forward. The Vientiane Consensus Document clearly reflects these challenges.

We should keep in our mind in each and every step of dealing with these challenges that the international trade is a powerful engine for development. This definitely applies to all nations but, from our perspective, it is certainly vital for landlocked countries.

There is no doubt that the creation of comprehensive transit policies and establishing efficient transit transport systems is of prime importance. We should work together to realize an international integrated transport and logistics system.

Mindful of this fact, Turkey has committed itself to the facilitation of transit links between the landlocked countries of Asia and their trading partners in Europe.

Turkey will continue to do its utmost in assisting and supporting Landlocked Developing Countries. We also would like to take this opportunity to state that Turkey has co-sponsored the draft proposal submitted by the Lao PDR, titled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2003-2013 in the Asia-Pacific region"

Thank you.