

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs, on the 12th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of
Landlocked Developing Countries [LLDCs] at 68th Session of the 68th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly, on September 30, 2013

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honor for me to participate in the 12th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries today.



India is deeply sensitive to the significant geographical difficulties faced by landlocked developing countries that place them at a distinct disadvantage as far as international trade and economic linkages are concerned and pose severe challenges to their efforts for achieving sustainable development.

The Almaty Programme of Action has led to encouraging results. It has led to an increased global awareness to the special circumstances and needs of the LLDCs and the need for sustained international support to address these needs.

It is important that the international community continues and strengthens its support to the LLDCs in the coming decade. The objective of our efforts in the coming decade should be to promote greater structural transformation in the LLDCs, create

infrastructure and build strong productive capacities in order to improve trade performance and enhance their integration with the world economy.

An effective solution to the problems faced by the LLDCs must also address the constraints and challenges faced by the transit developing countries that neighbour landlocked developing countries.

We are happy that South-South Cooperation has meaningfully supplemented international efforts for supporting the LLDCs. The report of the Secretary General has pointed out that corporations from the South, in particular from India and China accounted for 41% of FDI inflows into LLDCs in 2011 and that Southern providers accounted for 47% of official infrastructure financing in sub-Saharan Africa from 2001 to 2008. At the same time, it is a matter of concern that ODA flows to LLDCs fell by 3.3% in 2011.

India has special bilateral cooperation agreements with its landlocked neighbours for easy transit of their goods through India. We accord the highest priority to further strengthening our ties with these countries to support their economic development.

India will continue to contribute enhanced economic and technical support to the development efforts of the LLDCs as part of South-South cooperation.

We look forward to working closely with all our LLDCs partners for an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced outcome to the 10-year review conference on LLDCs next year.

Before concluding Mr. Chair, I am happy to announce that Government of India has decided to contribute a sum of US\$ 100,000/- for the organization of the 10-year review conference on LLDCs next year.

I thank you.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS