

74th Session of the UN General Assembly

High-Level Mid Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action

INDIA STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu
Deputy Permanent Representative**

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Thank you, Mr. President.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Palestine on behalf of G-77.

We would also like to thank the co-facilitators, the PRs from Bhutan and Austria for their leadership in the finalization of the political declaration.

Today's meeting provides a useful occasion for member countries to deliberate on the challenges faced by LLDCs, strategize on concrete actions and share best practices that would help unlock the potential the LLDCs.

Mr. President,

Despite the remarkable socioeconomic progress that the world has witnessed over the past few decades, the geographic remoteness of LLDCs compounded by weak transit, transport and customs infrastructure, resource and capacity constraints and limited access to technology have prevented the effective integration of LLDCs into the global economic and trading system.

The implementation of the VPoA constitutes an integral part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment of the international community to leave no one behind, including the LLDCs.

As a transit and as a fellow developing country, India remains fully committed to extend its support and share its developmental experience with LLDCs.

Mr. President,

India has established the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) initiative to strengthen economic cooperation and transport connectivity of landlocked Nepal and Bhutan and give BBIN countries greater access to global supply chains. The Motor Vehicles Agreement between the BBIN countries will promote containerization of multimodal cargo movement, which will help reduce trade costs. Cooperation under BBIN is also being discussed in the areas of power, water resources management, inland water ways and rail connectivity.

The India-Afghanistan direct air freight corridor, established in 2017, provides Afghan nationals, including the farming and trading community quick and direct access to the Indian markets for health services, education and marketing their produce and commodities. India is also cooperating with Afghanistan and Iran for development of the Chahbahar Port.

India is also working on the International North-South Transport Corridor, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Mr. President,

India's two latest initiatives - the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure are aimed at assisting developing countries, LDCs and LLDCs to access affordable solar energy and assist with developing disaster resilient infrastructure respectively. These initiatives will also help in successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

In 2017, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, India established the US\$150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which is aimed at Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational projects aimed at fulfilling the SDGs in developing, LDC and LLDCs. In just about

two years, the Fund has been able to develop 38 projects in 36 partnering countries.

Mr. President,

Let me once again reassure you of India's strong support and steadfast commitment to continue sharing our development experience and expertise with LLDCs to overcome their challenges and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

I thank You.