Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations,  
Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)  
Agenda Item 24: Operational activities for development of the Second  
Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
(New York, October 14, 2013)  
-----------------------------------

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of  
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

The Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the  
Distinguished Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of G77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of LLDCs values the important role of the UN development  
system including the UN funds, programs and specialised agencies in promoting  
and supporting the national development of developing countries especially the  
most vulnerable countries, through its operational activities for development. We  
welcome the adoption of resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive  
Policy Review (QCPR) and the Secretary General’s report to the Economic and  
Social Council for its substantive session of 2013, and look forward to the full and  
efficient implementation of the QCPR.

To this end, it is of critical importance that the developed countries fulfil  
their commitments and prioritize core funding in support of the operational  
activities of the UN development system and that the imbalance between core and  
non-core resources needs to be addressed. It is also important to stress that non-core  
resources represent an important contribution to the overall resource base of the  
United Nations development system and complement core resources, while noting  
the need to make non-core resources more flexible and aligned with strategic plans.
and national priorities and recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources.

In this connection, the Group stresses the need to ensure that the implementation of those operational activities should be in line with the national development plans, policies and priorities of the programme countries and on the basis of the national ownership and leadership. At the same time, the functioning of the UN development system should be further improved to ensure its effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of LLDCs would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and support those recommendations contained in the report.

Over the past decade, South-South and triangular cooperation has increasingly become prominent in development cooperation, as many Southern countries have emerged as important actors in the global economy, becoming both drivers of growth and catalysts for change in other developing countries.

The rise of the Global South is spurring innovation in bilateral partnership, regional integration and international cooperation, resulting in greater options and choices of advice and solutions from within the South for political or economic reforms; for fiscal or social policies; for infrastructural or industrial upgrading; for urbanization or diversified rural development, just to name a few. Such partnership has supported development efforts and opened opportunities for South-South trade, investment, science and technology exchanges, industrial collaboration, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.

In this context, landlocked developing countries have increasingly become more dependent on their neighbours and other developing countries in the global south. For instance, transport and transit development issues are now addressed within the national, regional and continental levels. Regional economic agreements continue to deepen intra-regional trade and ties, promote coherent policy and development vision. Emerging economies have become major development actors in LLDCs. For a number of countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) are now leading trading partners as well as major foreign direct investment, technology and general development assistance providers.

Therefore, it is a compelling reason why South-South issues and the South-South and triangular development agenda need to be positioned strategically in helping LLDCs overcome their challenges. South-South and triangular cooperation can address broad thematic and structural development issues that confront LLDCs, such as building resilience, economic diversification, infrastructural development,
institutional and productive capacity building, increasing trade and access to markets. This can be realized through the transfer of technology, skills development, increasing of investment, sharing of best practices and exchange of successful experiences and knowledge.

The Group of LLDCs values the continued partnership and cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, the Group would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan and India for their financial contribution to the LLDCs Trust Fund for the preparation and organization of the comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held in 2014, and the Group would also very much appreciate if other development partners and other countries could consider making their voluntary contribution to the said Trust Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the fact that countries from the South are tremendous sources of tested relevant solutions to development challenges faced by developing countries particularly LLDCs, our Group welcomes the initiative of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, in partnership with UN-OHRLLS, to develop and launch a South-South technology transfer and resource mobilization facility dedicated to LLDCs. The proposed South-South Facility for LLDCs will be a platform for the South-South and triangular transfer of viable, sector-specific technologies aimed at developing and/or strengthening capacities and production in LLDCs. The launch of the South-South Technology Transfer Facility for Landlocked Developing Countries will take place on October 31, 2013 on the margin of the Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi, Kenya.

While appreciating important contributions of South-South Cooperation to the LLDCs, the Group would like to stress that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than substitute for, North-South cooperation. Therefore, we call on the UN system and development partners to effectively support the South-South cooperation and in the other bodies of the UN system. In this regard, we appreciate the important work being done by the UN system in fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We also welcome the initiatives undertaken by various UN bodies to establish new units and work programmes to support and promote South-South cooperation and we urge other entities of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to include South-South cooperation in the mainstream of their activities.

In conclusion, I would like to once again stress the importance of enhancing South-South and look forwards to further deliberation at this committee.

I thank you.