Statement by Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations at the United Nations General Assembly under the agenda item 22 (b) Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second UN Conference on LLDCs
After the adoption of Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs
New York, 12 November 2014

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Government of Nepal in support of the draft resolution A/69/L.28, under the agenda item 22 (b) Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second UN Conference on LLDCs. My delegation is grateful to the President of the General Assembly for submitting this draft resolution, and calls on the Assembly for its unanimous adoption today.

By adopting this draft resolution, the Assembly will endorse the Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024, or the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA), as adopted by the Second UN Conference on LLDCs held in Vienna last month.

The LLDCs constitute one of the most vulnerable segments, which have been duly recognized by the international community. The structural weakness, limited productive capacity and low resilience to shocks expose these countries to severe negative impacts of climate change and other ongoing and emerging crises. In addition to that, the perennial trade and transit issues owing to lack of direct access to the sea, the long distance from major international markets, cumbersome transit procedures, and inadequate transport infrastructure and the resulting prohibitively high cost economy continue to be the major challenges for LLDCs.

It is imperative, therefore, to address the specific needs and challenges of LLDCs concerning structural transformation, productive capacity building and value addition, each of which demand targeted actions in a concerted and coordinated manner on a priority basis, with enhanced and predictable means of implementation. In this context, while pledging its utmost efforts at all levels for the implementation of VPoA from the national perspective, Nepal underscores the importance of fulfilling the commitments from all development partners and strongly calls on all for the speedy and full implementation of the new program of action.

In the same vein, my delegation emphasizes that the specific needs and challenges of LLDCs should be accorded due priority both in the elaboration and implementation of post-2015 development agenda. To that end, we call for full integration of VPoA into the new global development framework. Together, full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and other internationally agreed programmes of action would create a greater synergy for development, especially for those countries which are double disadvantaged being both landlocked and least developed. The implementation of all these instruments will directly contribute to eradicating extreme poverty and promoting sustainable development.

In this regard, my delegation is grateful to you, Mr. President, for your personal participation at the Second UN Conference on LLDCs in Vienna last month as President of the General Assembly, and I am confident that the causes of LLDCs will continue to be in top priority under your watch.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude by placing on record my delegation’s sincere compliments as well as gratitude to the Government of Austria for hosting the LLDCs conference; to Ambassador of Austria for his important role on behalf of the host and also as President of the ECOSOC; to Ambassador of Zambia and her team, as the Chair of LLDCs group; and to Ambassador of Lao PDR and Ambassador of Sweden as Co-Chairs of the Conference’s preparatory committee. Our sincere thanks also go to the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and all other actors for their invaluable efforts to make the Conference fruitful. My delegation is confident that all their commitments continue as we work for the implementation of the Conference’s outcome ahead.

I thank you for your kind attention.