Statement by Mrs. Fortuna Dibaco,
Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia during the adoption of the outcome of
the Second International Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
(LLDCs)
at the 69th General Assembly

December 11, 2014
New York
Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me, once again, to congratulate the people and the Government of Austria for hosting a very successful UN Conference on Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). We also commend the leadership and efforts of Zambia as the chair of LLDCs. Our gratitude also extends to the co-chairs of Sweden and Laos, who played an instrumental role during the negotiation process.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

In spite of the progress achieved in addressing the challenges of landlockedness, LLDCs still experience gaps in the implementation of Almaty Program of Action (APOA). That is why the Vienna Program of Action aims to resolve this by drawing on lessons from the past 10 years. In this regards, the program of action reaffirms the special needs of LLDCs and underscores the importance of considering in holistic manner the unique challenges that LLDCs face due to their geographical disadvantage. It also underlines the importance of improving trade, promoting greater integration of LLDCs into international market and addressing supply constraints through structural economic transformation and diversification of their economies.

In this context, it is important to undertake measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of our geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation.
Mr. President,

The VPOA is a concise, focused and action-oriented document that which provides a roadmap and designing implementable specific objectives is therefore a first step. The question now is how can we effectively implement the program of action and deliver on the commitments made to LLDCs.

Partnership based on mutual trust and accountability is indeed vital to support the implementation of our concrete priorities and specific objectives. Effective implementation requires sufficient and predictable means, including financing, institutional capacity-building, technology transfer and technical cooperation. In this context, we stress the importance of including LLDCs priorities in the discussions and future outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which shall be one of the important inputs regarding means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda.

We also need a robust global monitoring system that strengthens accountability at all levels in the following up the implementation of the program of action. In this regard, we believe the review of the UN system support to LLDCs agreed in Vienna will most certainly contribute to improve accountability and improve delivery of commitments. We look forward to the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, on developing relevant indicators and for measuring the progress on implementing the Program of Action in landlocked developing countries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we would like to once again underline the necessity to integrate the needs and priorities of countries in special situations, such as LLDCs, in the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant United Nations system processes.

Thank you.