Statement by
H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN
on the occasion of the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action
for the Decade 2014 – 2024

12 December 2014

Mr. President,

We are indeed happy to note the overwhelming endorsement of the outcome of the Second Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Vienna last month. My delegation wholeheartedly accepts and supports the Vienna Programme of Action, the second major milestone, as a sequel to the one adopted in Almaty in 2003, providing landlocked countries a new trajectory for development.

The governments of all LLDCs and transit partners expressed their political will to implement the Programme of Action in conjunction with other global platforms and processes that will shape the post-2015 phase.

The Vienna document will just be an important and integral part of this global movement. The challenge now is to integrate and synthesize these parallel actions into an interconnected stream of development, and to “Deliver as One”. This will be in the context of promoting infrastructure development, economic diversification, structural transformation, connectivity to global value chains and regional coordination.

In this regard, the follow up conference in Zambia next year would provide an opportunity to deliberate on how to assess and monitor the implementation of the VPoA and proposing the appropriate tools and mechanisms. It would also provide the forum to analyze the extent of
partnerships that have been forged, including with the private sector and other multilateral institutions.

Following up on the final culmination for the Almaty Programme of Action and, in anticipation of the Vienna Conference, my country had already taken into consideration measures to work towards overcoming the geographical disadvantages of landlockness, through a Path to the Future, called Nurly Zhol. This road map was delivered by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan earlier last month in his Address to the Nation.

It is a well-conceived approach for every aspect of national development: raising national income as well as, economic and industrial growth, import and export flows with adequate trade regulations, and upgrading and expanding the infrastructure of roads, all forms of transport, communications and technology, and renewable sources of energy, to mention a few. At the same time, Nyrly Zhol reflects a very people-centred development based on the principals of the United Nations. We will be pleased to share our lessons learned and gain also from strategies of other landlocked countries since we all share similar challenges.

The primary responsibility to implement the Vienna Programme of Action lies with national governments but, as in the case of all items on the UN agenda, the support of development partners is critical for LLDCs to reach their objectives. This calls for global solidarity and multilateral action under the leadership of the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and the UN system as a whole.

The Vienna Programme of Action is holistic, forward looking and action oriented, which we must all embrace fully and move forward with it if the LLDCs have to make their special mark on the world stage.

Thank you