Statement by
the representative of the delegation of
the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Second Committee of UN General Assembly
on item 22 b Groups of countries in special situations:
a comprehensive ten-year review of the implementation of
the Almaty Programme of Action

(New York, October 21, 2013)
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Laos on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for providing a report on implementing the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA), representing a broad range of problems faced by this group of countries, and offering specific recommendations to address them.

According to the Report, the issues of border crossings, cumbersome trans-border procedures, inefficient systems of logistics, and poor and dysfunctional infrastructure remain relevant. These subsequently lead to an increase in the total transport costs, as well as the rise in the cost of related commercial transactions. In addition, the effects of all these have a negative impact on the financial and economic crisis, climate change and other factors emerging in recent years.

In light of the above, we welcome a system-wide approach of the Office of the High Representative in preparing the Conference to Review the Implementation of the APoA, which will be convened in 2014. A consistent follow up of the road map by the Office of the High Representative for the three tracks, suggests a promising contribution to the conceptual, substantive and organizational aspects of the Conference.

Kazakhstan is committed to the rapid implementation of this outline in the framework of the APoA. Our Government has carried out targeted work in order to develop trade and transport sectors, including the upgrading of existing facilities, increasing the commercial orientation of transport services, eliminating non-physical barriers to transit traffic and introducing of a "one stop shop" principle in the vehicle control process. The main issues to be addressed form the basis of the Transport Strategy, "Kazakhstan – 2015".

As a part of the revival of the historic "Silk Road", Kazakhstan is making efforts to build transcontinental transport connections between Europe and Asia.

Today, the realization of the mega-project on the reconstruction of the international transit road corridor "Western Europe - Western China" is considered as a most important practical measure to implement this idea.

The total length of the path is 8,445 km, including the territories of Kazakhstan - 2,787 km, China - 3,425 km, Russia - 2,233 km, with access to the countries of Western Europe.

The main advantage of the international corridor, "Western Europe - Western China", is in its capacity to provide transportation from China to Europe, and thus reduce cargo delivery by triple, in comparison to delivery by sea.

In this regard, it is important to develop land cargo terminals, as they are designed to stimulate the growth of international trade and transportation for LLDCs, as well as, to influence development of regional infrastructure and job creation opportunities.
Thus, an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports will be signed during the Special Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), later this November in Bangkok. Currently, Kazakhstan passes domestic harmonization procedures of this Agreement and we intend to join it in the nearest future.

In general, we appreciate the active participation of ESCAP and UNECE in realizing projects that improve the transport infrastructure in the Asian region and building institutional capacity for development opportunities both for interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages.

In a broad way, the contribution towards building institutional and analytical capacity of the LLDCs should be under the purview of the International Center of Expertise in Mongolia. The Kazakh government is currently finalizing internal procedures for accession to the Multilateral Agreement on the establishment of the centre and encourages other LLDCs to join it, as well.

In terms of enhancing regional cooperation, we are interested in the initiative to establish a mechanism for South-South Cooperation with LLDCs to be presented later this month in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we are confident that the upcoming Conference in 2014 will provide a comprehensive assessment of implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and an agenda for development, which will enable the LLDCs to better adapt and integrate into the global trading system. Such an approach would enable also to achieve internationally agreed development goals in the next decade. It is important that the Conference takes into account the lessons learned, focuses on promising and practical results, and also proposes solutions for new challenges and threats that have emerged in recent years.

The LLDCs need to continue strengthening their production capacities in order to enhance their own competitiveness and create favorable conditions for attracting foreign direct investment and private sector partnerships. We consider it important that the international community and development partners participate actively in the preparatory process and attend the Conference itself on the high level.

In turn, we assure our delegation’s readiness and commitment to actively implement the APoA, and to further support the Office of the High Representative in preparing for the successful outcome of the Review Conference in 2014.

I thank you for your attention.