

Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations H.E. Ambassador Armen Martirosyan on the High Level Special Session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Program of Action

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Armenia allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the organizers of this plenary session devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Program of Action. I'd like to acknowledge efforts of Ambassador Takasu, Permanent representative of Japan, for facilitating negotiations of the final document, which were concluded last month.

Any program is as good as its realization, and the Almaty Program of Action is no exception. Allow me to share with you Armenia's viewpoint on some of the issues regarding the Program of Action.

It is our strong belief that the international community should adopt effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures, and particularly against landlocked developing countries. Such actions contradict the recognized principles of international law and while undermining multilateral trading system, have a negative impact on international and regional economic cooperation. The interests and concerns of the landlocked countries should be taken fully into account while establishing new transit transport systems as it is stipulated in par. 8 of the Almaty Program of Action. Elaboration and implementation of any divisive initiatives are contrary to the Almaty Program of Action and will only add to the tension existing in a volatile region such as the South Caucasus.

Regional and sub-regional cooperation plays an important role in successfully addressing the specific problems of transit transportations. In this context, and I am quoting par. 9 of Almaty Program of Action, support from all existing sources, where requested, for mechanisms of regional dialogue and integration among the landlocked and transit countries is essential. We also believe that the landlocked countries should be provided assistance in the area of trade facilitation and relevant instruments should be adopted in the framework of the WTO.

To facilitate the implementation of the Almaty Program of Action, we would like to make some proposals, which we believe stipulate the effectiveness of the program. We deem it necessary to:

- Promote the usage and further development of the existing transport infrastructures in the landlocked developing countries, ensuring their sustainable integration in international transport corridors and other related regional developments, which ensure access to the high seas.

- Thoroughly consider the interests of the landlocked countries while elaborating development plans for sea motorways and ports.
- Create favorable conditions for the landlocked developing countries for having their presence in ports, maritime infrastructures and in water rolling stock.

With the purpose of implementation of the above mentioned proposals, it would also be necessary to intermediate international financial institutions for providing grants and long term loans under favorable conditions to those interested in promoting these objectives.

Mr. President,

The Almaty Program of Action has demonstrated its actuality and comprehensiveness. We believe that with joint efforts we'll come up with new tangible results at our next mid-term review session.

Thank you.