

EGYPT



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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
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بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الامم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz,
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations**

**To the High Level Plenary Meeting on
The Midterm Review of the Almaty programme of Action**

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to thank you Mr. President for convening this important and timely meeting to review the needs and challenges of Landlocked Countries and to express our appreciations to Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, the Under-Secretary General, Special Adviser to Africa and High representative for the Least developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing states, and his skilful team for the excellent work they are doing, and their efforts in making this review meeting a success.

Egypt associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G 77 and China.

The Almaty programme of Action represents a significant landmark in the recognition of the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries. The Midterm Review provides an opportunity to assess the progress made so far in the implementation of the specific actions according to the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action.

In this context I would like to highlight the following points aiming at enhancing the ability of the landlocked developing countries to become an effective partner in international development activities:

- Special attention should be given to landlocked developing countries needs in the Doha Trade negotiations to enhance their role in international trade system.
- There is a need to attract private investment, including foreign direct investment. In this regard, private sector participation through co-financing can play a catalytic role.
- Egypt welcomes the proposal by H.E. the President of Mongolia to set up in Ulaanbaatar an international think tank to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries needed to maximize the efficiency of our coordinated efforts for the effective implementation of the internationally agreed provisions, particularly the Almaty Programme of Action and the MDGs. In this regard we urge international organizations and donor countries to assist in materializing this initiative.
- Enhancing efforts to facilitate transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communication technology, is necessary for landlocked developing countries.
- We also encourage strengthening of South-South cooperation and trilateral cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations in support of landlocked and transit developing countries towards the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.
- The current global crises – food, energy, climate and finance – will compound the challenges to the development objectives of LLDCs, and will constrain national efforts to advance implementation of the Programme. In this regard a robust and proactive initiative, including a doubling of efforts and resources on the part of all development partners in support of LLDCs, will be required.

- Progressive measures are needed to address the long-standing barriers to development, such as international trade barriers, lack of resources for investing in infrastructure, and weak international support measures.
- We encourage developed countries to deliver on their commitments to provide 0.15 percent to 0.20 percent of the GNI to ODA, to keep sufficient levels of assistance to the LLDCs.

Mr. President,

Egypt has always been keen on strengthening its relations with all developing countries, and on establishing relations based on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. In this context Egypt established two Funds as a part of Egypt's foreign policy mechanism in supporting and strengthening the South-South Cooperation within its existing resources.

The Funds namely "The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa", which provide assistance for African Countries, and "The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States" which was modified to include other developing countries particularly LLDCs. We are in the process of expanding the activities of the funds within these countries.

Egypt gives great attention to the role of these Funds through providing training courses, expertise according to the needs of these countries, and also providing assistance for building capacities and providing better services within the implementation of their national strategies.

Trilateral cooperation is an integrated part of the funds activities as well as cooperation with various UN bodies and donor countries, to enhance the resources available for developing countries and to benefit from the Egyptian expertise in different areas. The Funds also provide humanitarian assistance in response to appeals from the UN bodies.

Several Egyptian companies took a leading role in directing investments to infrastructure sector, particularly telecommunications and construction in landlocked developing countries.

Finally Mr. President, Egypt welcomes the Declaration resulted from the midterm review and remains committed to continue strengthening and preserving the interests of the developing world, including LLDCs, LDCs, SIDS and Africa in view of the mounting challenges facing developing countries which require unity and solidarity.

Thank you Mr. President.