



**Statement by
H.E. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

**at The High Level Plenary Meeting on the Midterm Review of
the Almaty Programme of Action
on *“Role of International Support in establishing efficient
transit transport systems to expand trade opportunities for
landlocked developing countries”***

New York, 2 - 3 October 2008

Check against delivery

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org

email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. President,

Let me first thank you for convening this midterm review to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and their transit developing countries. The review takes place at an important juncture when Member States have reiterated their firm commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 31 countries comprising of 370 million people that we speak of today are an essential element of our broader commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

This is, therefore, a timely opportunity to acknowledge the progress achieved but also highlight their remaining challenges.

The Declaration for the midterm review of the Almaty Program of Action to be adopted in this august forum contains important future actions to enhance further cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Countries, with the support of International Community. My delegation in this regard wishes to express its support for the Declaration's adoption.

Mr. President,

Indonesia recognizes the Special Needs of Least Developed and Landlocked developing Countries. The high cost of international trade caused by transit and transport costs has been a persistent barrier.

Even when the world market was fully opened to landlocked countries, their participation and competitiveness of their products in international trade has been hampered by lack of territorial access to sea ports and poor transit infrastructure. The limited capacity of the infrastructure even with territorial access to sea ports is also another challenge.

Trade is a powerful engine for growth and development. Therefore, the participation and integration of Landlocked Developing Countries in the world trading system should be at the center of the global efforts. The full inclusion of the LDCs and LLDCs in the World Trade Organization will address their marginalization in international trade.

Since the adoption of the Almaty Program of Action, the landlocked developing countries' GDP, as a group grew by almost 8 per cent per annum for the period 2003-2006. The increased growth rates of GDP coming from exports surged particularly for oil and other mineral resources. Moreover, the economic growth of the major transit

countries has been encouraging and neighboring landlocked developing countries have benefited from spillover effects.

Despite these encouraging signs, however, the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks. It is even more concerning when the per capita income and human development of most of the LLDCs are among the lowest in the world.

International support measures, thus, are an urgent task that includes a major effort to improve transport costs, improve infrastructure and strengthen capacity building.

And since cooperation between landlocked countries and their transit neighbors is pivotal for the effective solution of many transit problems, an effective strategy to improve transit systems requires, first and foremost, action at the regional level.

In ASEAN, there is the 'Initiative for ASEAN Integration' (IAI) program. The program gives direction to and sharpens the focus of collective efforts in ASEAN to narrow the development gap between ASEAN's older and newer members. The initiative also aims to merge the economy of newer members of ASEAN into the regional and global market. To realize the objective, the ASEAN Leaders, at their Summit Meeting in Phnom Penh in November 2002 endorsed a Work Plan until 2008 comprising 203 projects. It is noteworthy that some of these projects, especially those related to transportation, are in line with the Almaty Programme of Action.

Mr. President

Indonesia joins those who have called for international support to address the special needs of these countries and the transit developing countries. Indonesia reiterates its determination to work in unison with the international community aimed at creating an environment that would pave the way towards promoting the well-being of all countries.

I thank you.