



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Statement by

**H.E. Mohammad Haneef Atmar
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs**

at the

**Annual Ministerial Meeting of the
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)**

New York
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Your Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chair of the Landlocked Developing Countries,

Distinguished Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan, in its capacity as the Chair of the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing

The Government of Afghanistan is fully committed to implement the VPoA, as outlined in our February 2019 VPoA National Report. Our Government has mainstreamed the VPoA into national development plans and established institutional mechanisms to work towards the full implementation of the Program and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a land-locked and post-conflict country, Afghanistan continues to face numerous special development needs and challenges, including those related to lack of access to regional and international markets, infrastructure gaps, investment deficits as well as a shortage of human and institutional capacity in various areas. To address Afghanistan's complex needs, the Government has taken a number of important steps.

Afghanistan has made intensive efforts to utilize its central location as a regional land-bridge connecting Central Asia with South Asia. In this regard, projects such as the Lapis Lazuli Corridor, the Five Nations Railway Corridor, and energy projects like CASA 1000 and TAPI, electricity and natural gas initiatives will have a profound impact on regional connectivity and economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace, security and stability are prerequisite to achieve sustainable development. Terrorism and insecurity continue to be the main obstacle to our efforts for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

