

Annual Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing  
Countries (LLDC)

His Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Global Chair of the  
Group of LLDCs,

In this regard, IsDB's holistic making markets work for development model is strategically relevant for the landlocked economies as well as their neighboring economies including non-IsDB member countries.

The IsDB's approach to promotion of regional connectivity has two interlinked and mutually supportive elements. The first is the development of inter-country corridors; while the second is aligning physical connectivity with "soft" aspects of regional integration.

Regarding hard infrastructure connectivity, priority is given to the connection of landlocked economies to international ports and trade networks. These priorities are set out in harmony with the existing regional cooperation programs such as CAREC for Central Asia.

Just to give a few concrete project examples, IsDB has approved and implemented USD 454 million for completion of the missing links along the Trans-Saharan Road Corridor in Africa, and USD 371 million for the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway corridor, connecting landlocked Central Asian countries to the Middle East.

Regarding the "soft" infrastructure aspects, IsDB is completing the commercialization studies on the above projects to promote trade and reduce transportation costs.

Within this context, the COVID-19 crisis is now reshaping these needs in many ways and adding complexity to the already-existing challenges of landlocked countries.

Recognizing these emerging challenges, IsDB has acted swiftly to support its member countries

With these final observations, I wish the meeting a great success and look forward to fruitful discussions. Thank you so much.