

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Annual Ministerial Meeting
of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries
(New York, 25 September 2015)**

**Mr. Chair,
Madam Under-Secretary-General,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

From the outset, on behalf of my Government let me express
gratitude for LLDCs Member

capital, Nur-Sultan city. Meeting initiated the preparatory process for the Midterm Review of the VPoA.

We all recognize that the landlocked developing countries are rather **a heterogenous group. But we are united by** recognition of the common challenges and obstacles on the way to the sustainable development of our countries.

Landlocked countries remain marginalized in international trade, isolated from major centers of economic and trade activity and rely on our neighbours for transit. In addition to the geographical impediments, challenges that LLDCs face are linked to the high trade and transport costs, limited or low quality infrastructure, delays at borders and bottlenecks related to customs procedures and border crossing regulations and productivity constraints.

As a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system, Kazakhstan proposed to host the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference** on 8-11 June 2020 in Nur-Sultan. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank LLDCs for the unanimous support extended to our bid.

The Ministerial Conference in Nur-Sultan will provide a great opportunity for LLDCs to speak with one voice to address the challenges arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints and to build on interests in the global trade policy.

