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H.E Mr. Julio Arriola Ramirez (Representative of Paraguay to UN and Global Chair of LLDCs)

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very successful outcome. I also thank him for his leadership as the global Chair of the Group of LLDCs in New York.

I wish to thank all participants and panelists for your active participation and

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There has been progress on closing missing links, expanding and upgrading the road and railway network, energy generation and ICT infrastructure. Bolivia and Paraguay are participating in Latin ambitious regional corridor integration project connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America.

There has also been progress on inland waterways with more ports being built and the recently signed Additional Protocol of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway.

We need to maintain and enhance these positive trends.

You also identified the key challenges and areas concerted efforts are needed.

It is commendable that economic structural transformation has been placed at the , and that they made some progress towards structural economic transformation. The discussions underscored the need for continued efforts to accelerate structural economic transformation.

Export diversification in both products and markets needs greater efforts.

Additional efforts are needed to support and enable the private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, to grow and bring about structural transformation.

LLDCs also need to undertake policy changes required to achieve this shift.

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A very special thanks goes to UN-ECLAC for co-organizing the meeting, and for all the important work that you do in this region.

Last but not least, I wish to thank and express my gratitude to the interpreters for the good work and for making it possible for us to have fruitful deliberations.

I look forward to continuing collaborating closely with all of you in this preparatory process leading to MTR in December 2019.

I assure you of UN-OHRLLS support to your endeavors.
