

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
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**REMARKS AT ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**
23 September 2020

[as delivered]

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With the impact of COVID-19, global debt has soared to unprecedented heights. In some of the most vulnerable countries, more than a quarter of public revenue is being used to service public debt, severely limiting fiscal space.

We need to ensure that resources and debt relief reach all countries that need it, in order to create space for investments in recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Combatting illicit financial flows is also necessary to ensure that resources are channeled where they are needed most.

And leave no one behind.

As the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary, we are determined to meet the test of this pivotal moment, including through the reforms to the UN development system.

The United Nations system will continue to support you in your efforts to realize sustainable, inclusive development for your people as you respond and ultimately recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you.