

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY, HE MR FERIDUN H.**

LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(23 September 2020, 08:00-11:00)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be with you today.

I would like to begin by congratulating Kazakhstan for taking over the chairmanship of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and thank Paraguay for their commendable leadership.

The world has been utterly shaken by a global health crisis since our last meeting in September. The pandemic has triggered an economic downturn with acute repercussions on the functioning of open markets and global supply chains.

Unfortunately, as many developing countries, LLDCs have also been severely hit by this crisis. Their geographical disadvantages, coupled with interruptions in cross-border transport networks, caused wide disruptions on their access to essential goods, including food and vital medical supplies.

As a transit, and a donor country, Turkey has taken every measure to ensure that no one is left behind in implementing an effective Covid-19 response plan.

We removed customs tariffs on essential medical equipments including masks, ventilators and respiratory devices from certain countries to ensure the continuity of supply chains.

We granted exemption from COVID-19 related restrictions to road vehicles and cargo planes traveling in and out of Turkey to guarantee uninterrupted flow of food and medical supplies.

To date, we have responded to medical equipment needs of more than 140 countries and 7 international organizations, and

Diagnostic tests and basic equipment are still lacking to fight