

**12th Annual Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs
New-York, 30 September 2013**

**Speech of Mr. Paul Maseli, Director, UNIDO New-York Office
and Representative to the United Nations**

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to thank the organisers for inviting UNIDO to this Ministerial meetings

Landlocked Developing Countries(LLDCs) will need to reinforce their economic resilience and to develop new productive capacities and achieve structural transformation of their economies If they are to achieve sustainable development

Since 2004, UNIDO, in line with the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA), has supported landlocked developing countries to achieve inclusive sustainable industrial growth. In this regard, UNIDO's technical assistance has focused on improving infrastructure and cost reductions to increase their competitive edge.

Excellencies,

Allow me to recall here some selected examples of UNIDO projects aligned with the LLDCs national priorities and the Almaty Programme of Action.

First is our West Africa Quality Programme, that includes LLDCs like Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade and face constraints to their overall growth. The West Africa Quality Programme aims at increasing trade and competitiveness by enabling the targeted countries to comply with the relevant WTO rules and regulations.

As a result of above mentioned project, more than 50 persons were trained in the field of metrology and accreditation in Burkina Faso.

In Mali, the project developed more than 150 national standards, and provided training for up to 100 Malians on specific standards.

The project also provided a quality assessment for 2 large enterprises in Niger, offered several trainings on particular standards and trained more than 48 laboratory assistants.

Based on this experience, UNIDO is now implementing a similar trade capacity and quality programmes in Afghanistan, Zambia, Malawi, Mongolia, Bolivia, South Sudan and Lao.

In the case of LAO, UNIDO is implementing a programme on "ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, CLEAN PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CAPACITY IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" to increase the

export volume and the quality of their export products. The objective of this project is to strengthen the organic agriculture and the handicraft sectors by linking it more closely to tourism.

Another of our major programme is the Regional Programme for Investment Promotion in Africa named Afripanet. This targets countries like Burkina Faso, Malawi, Ethiopia, Mali and Uganda. This programme relies on the UNIDO Africa FDI Surveys to develop a strategy for African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to attract more FDIs. The programme resulted in an extensive investor's survey, provided training for Investment Promotion Agencies IPAs and resulted in the creation of a data monitoring platform.

Other important programmes have been implemented in the area of Energy Access. In landlocked developing countries such as Chad, Uganda, and Zambia, UNIDO has supported the development of hydro-power mini grids in order to provide renewable energy to communities and small businesses.

UNIDO has also established a “Centre for International Industrial Cooperation” in Armenia. The objective of the center is to facilitate international cooperation between the host country and foreign investors, enterprises, as well as organizations. It acts as a catalyst for economic, technological, industrial and scientific exchange. UNIDO will establish a similar center in Kazakhstan.

Excellencies,

My final point will be related to the 5th LDC ministerial conference to be held in Lima, this year, on the 30th November and the 1st December 2013.

As you are aware, many LLDCs are also LDCs. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to make some brief announcements related to the forthcoming Lima Conference.

UNIDO has so far organized four thematic conferences on the topic of least developed Countries since 2007.

The first was held in Vienna in 2007, in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Group of 77 (G-77), under the theme “How Can Aid for Trade Transform LDCs?”

The second LDC Ministerial Conference was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in November 2008, which focused on an industrial agenda for LDCs.

Under the theme - Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the LDCs' Productive Capacities and Trade Prospects: Threats & Opportunities – and in collaboration with UN-OHRLLS, the 2009 conference of the LDC Ministers in charge of industry resulted in a plan of action to help LDCs in their efforts to emerge from the crisis and moving towards a more sustainable direction to industrial development.

Subsequent to the Istanbul LDC Summit, UNIDO and Office of the representative for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries (ohrlls) co-organized the fourth LDC ministerial conference in Vienna, in November 2011.

This year, in 30 November and 1st December, the 2013 LDC ministerial conference will serve to leverage South-South cooperation potentialities and mechanisms available in the domain of private sector and SMEs development, productive capacity building, trade and employment, in cooperation with the BRICS (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) and other emerging countries towards implementing the UNIDO operational Strategy for LDCs.

The conference will further provide a platform to launch the UNIDO LDC Trust Fund.

UNCTAD and OHRLLS intend also to organize in Lima a side event dedicated to the promotion of LLDCs productive capacities. We look forward to your participation.

I thank you