

Statement of the Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of the Group of the Landlocked developing countries at the Opening and Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General on the main findings and recommendations of his progress report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) and the repositioning of the UN development system

19 May 2020, 10.00-12.00

**Secretary-General,
Madam President,
Distinguished colleagues,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of the Landlocked Developing Countries. First of all, we appreciate and welcome the work of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, as well as their teams, for the outstanding leadership, commitment and determination to make the activities of the UN development system and its agenda more efficient, coherent and relevant to the numerous needs and demands of Member States. The Operational Activities Segment has a particular relevance in the times we are living - while we confront the pandemic and envisage a sustainable recovery. It will also lay the foundation for the General Assembly deliberations on the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review in the fall.

We had a successful high-level Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action last December which noted that although some tangible progress had been made in implementing the VPoA and towards some of the SDGs, there were still major gaps and challenges that need to be addressed such as need for maintenance of open borders increased regional transport connectivity, inclusive and equal and non-discriminatory partnership between the LLDCs and transit countries, transit and cross-border trade facilitation, need for enhanced regional integration, structural transformation, undiversified economies, low productive capacities and impact of climate change and desertification threatening all types of fragile ecosystems to mention a few. The COVID-19 pandemic is much more than a health crisis that is resulting in significant socio-economic impacts affecting the ability of the LLDCs to achieve the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs and the 2030 Agenda. Acceleration of the achievement of the SDGs by LLDCs and mitigation of the COVID-19 crisis requires enhanced support and the role of the UN Development System is critical as the LLDCs are heavily reliant on its support.

At the same time, we appreciate the very complete and timely reports that were put to our consideration, especially under the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. We emphasize that the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are convinced that the reforms, Member States mandated since 2016, have repositioned the UN development system to help our global community stay on track

on the way to Agenda 2030. The UNDS has been deeply transformed within the period of the first cycle of QCPR.

In that sense, we believe that the repositioning of the UN development system should offer a stronger revitalization and a better defined collective identity to serve as an effective development tool for the landlocked developing countries; respond to national needs and priorities on the ground and be positioned to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the VPoA. Along this path, it must also ensure effective links between monitoring and revision of the decisions for the 2030 Agenda, the programmes of action of the most vulnerable countries and other development instruments.

Our countries appreciate the work in progress on strengthening the capacities, tools and skills of the Resident Coordinator system, present in 131 countries, to better respond to the specific challenges of the most vulnerable groups of countries such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

This year will be critical to test all the reforms we have already launched with regards to the UN development system. The novel COVID-19 pandemic has made it more clear that many of the issues and challenges are of cross-boundary and even cross regional nature. Thus it requires from us a collective approach.

In this vein, we firmly believe that further redesigning of the UNDS to strengthen the regional and interregional focus is fundamental.

The next QCPR must reflect that shift from the architecture and processes of reform to ambitious strategic and policy guidance on how Member States wish to leverage a stronger UNDS in this transformation. We need another breakthrough in QCPR that provides clear strategic direction to guide the system in the next 4 years.

In this regards, **we are interested to know:**

1. How the next QCPR cycle could better integrate the implementation of the VPoA?

2. The 2016 QCPR underscored that one of the core functions of the UN system was to assist Governments in leveraging partnerships. The UN plays a catalytic role in facilitating partnerships, and as the recent Secretary-General's report states, the majority of RCs (82%) and the UNCT does not have a common approach to partnerships.

3. We commend the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General and the whole UNDS team in ensuring alignment with the next QCPR cycle and to visibly integrate the Funding Compact commitments. As adequate funding plays a pivotal role in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, we are interested in how the next cycle of QCPR could better build up cooperation between UNDS with Bretton Woods institutions to help the developing Member States to overcome the negative impacts of the pandemic.

4. We greatly appreciate and note that in paragraph 85 of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on QCPR, the Secretary General has already started working on developing a Road Map for accelerated implementation of the VPoA and the political declaration in order to strengthen UN coordinated support to the landlocked developing countries. The Group is very interested in the development of such a roadmap that can bring tangible progress in the implementation of the VPoA in the remaining 5 years and we look forward to

receiving the roadmap on the implementation of the VPoA at the earliest from OHRLLS.

5. We call for enhanced capacity of OHRLLS as highlighted in paragraph 48 of resolution 74/262 in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to take the action necessary to ensure that additional post and non-post resources are allocated to subprogramme 2 on Landlocked developing countries, and 3 on Small island developing States in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2021 to enable them to effectively carry out their increased mandates.

In conclusion, we reiterate the firm commitment of our Group with the objective of having an organization better positioned to face the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we remain ready to work with all the Member and Observer States, the Secretariat and all the multiple stakeholders to advance in the achievement of this objective.

I thank you.
