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**Groups of countries in special situations: Comprehensive
10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the
Almaty Programme of Action**

Fiji:* draft resolution

**Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems
of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International
Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing
Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and
Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration¹ and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,²

Recalling also its resolutions [58/201](#) of 23 December 2003, [60/208](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/212](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/204](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/228](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/214](#) of 21 December 2009, [65/172](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/214](#) of 22 December 2011 and [67/222](#) of 21 December 2012,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,⁴

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.*

² *Ibid.*, annex I.

³ Resolution [55/2](#).

⁴ Resolution [65/1](#).



Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁵

Recalling further its resolution [63/2](#) of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 12 September 2012,⁶

Taking note also of the outcome documents of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012,⁷ and of the Ministerial Communiqué of the Landlocked Developing Countries adopted within the framework of that session,⁸

Taking note further of the communiqué of the Twelfth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2013,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and high transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recalling its resolution [66/214](#), in which it decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, which should be preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations,

Emphasizing that the 10-year Review Conference should strengthen concerted global actions in support of the landlocked developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries”;⁹

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

⁵ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

⁶ [A/67/386](#), annex.

⁷ TD/500 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

⁸ TD/474.

⁹ [A/68/157](#).

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,¹⁰ to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action² by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Invites* Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity, and strengthen analytical capacities to assist in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade, and in this regard, encourages enhanced regional, subregional, and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

8. *Expresses concern* that despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to face higher transport and trade transaction costs, high commodity dependence, limited productive capacities, declining value addition in agriculture and manufacturing and deindustrialization, factors that undermine their ability to achieve structural transformation and limit their effective and meaningful participation in global value chains and international trade;

9. *Also expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the negative impacts of climate change, including desertification, land degradation, drought, water shortage and glacier lake outburst floods, and invites

¹⁰ Resolution 63/2.

the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

10. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks, through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

11. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation, agriculture and development are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade, and notes that landlocked developing countries need greater international assistance in implementing the trade facilitation agreement;

12. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

13. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

14. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and in this regard welcomes the joint initiative launched by the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to promote technology transfer to landlocked developing countries through a special South-South Technology Transfer Facility established within the framework of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange;

15. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

16. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and effectively implement, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

17. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, international and regional financial and development organizations and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the Office of the High Representative, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support at the bilateral, regional and global levels, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, towards assisting in the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

19. *Urges* those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to accede to or to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the progress being made in the preparatory process for the comprehensive 10-year Review Conference in its intergovernmental,

inter-agency and private sector tracks, including the outcomes of the high-level global thematic meeting on international trade, trade facilitation and aid for trade, held in Almaty on 13 and 14 September 2012, and the regional review meetings on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, namely the Euro-Asia regional review meeting, held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013, the Africa regional review meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 July 2013, and the Latin America regional review meeting, held in Asunción on 18 and 19 November 2013;

21. *Welcomes* the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the 10-year review conference;

22. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the 10-year Review Conference, pursuant to resolution 66/214, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

23. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself;

24. *Invites* landlocked and transit developing countries, donor countries, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders to engage fully in the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action and to participate in the Conference itself at the highest level possible;

25. *Stresses* the need to mobilize resources for the trust fund for the support of activities related to the preparation and organization of the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, and urges Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund in a timely manner in order to support the substantive preparations for the Conference and the participation of representatives of the landlocked developing countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

26. *Requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to undertake all necessary measures to equip the Office of the High Representative with the necessary resources to enable the Office to ensure effective preparations for and organization of the comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action and its follow-up;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information

efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

28. *Stresses* that the concerns and special needs of landlocked developing countries deserve special attention in the context of international development processes, including the post-2015 development agenda, the sustainable development goals, sustainable development financing, financing for development, the technology facilitation mechanism, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Economic and Social Council;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the second United Nations conference on the landlocked developing countries a report on the 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the outcome of the Conference;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations conference on the landlocked developing countries”.
