

Your Excellency Ms. Batmunkh Battsetseg, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Esteemed colleagues and representatives of international and regional organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for

corridors, the development of soft infrastructure and the implementation of trade facilitation measures. They help reduce time spent at borders, increase transport reliability and predictability and so ultimately contribute to reducing the high cost of transport.

This also necessitates the design and implementation of effective rules and regulations within a supportive, stable and predictable policy framework. It is imperative to develop policies to encourage efficient transit along corridors. The implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is important in this regard to facilitate smoother, faster and cheaper trade and transport along corridors.

The spin- off impact of corridors is therefore much wider bearing on economies, including the development of vibrant services industry and creation of decent jobs.

But ensuring efficient transit along corridors is not purely a national matter. Close cooperation between LLDCs and transit countries in their respective regions on transport is

recommendations of your meeting will provide an important input into the midterm review.

OHRLLS has coordinated the preparatory process for the midterm review. This included national level reviews, regional review meetings for Euro-Asia, Africa and Latin America. The process also provided for more than 20 thematic pre-conference events, such as this one.

At the outset, I was concerned that we have a highly participatory process and one that captures your voices.

The midterm review itself will feature important discussions. We will discuss connectivity and corridor development in two high-level