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Statement
by
Rabab Fatima
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Small Island Developing States

at the

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H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of
Austria to the United Nations and Co-Chair of the Group of
Friends,
H.E. Mr. Parvathaneni Harish, Permanent Representative of
India to the United Nations and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends,
H.E. Ms. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Representative of
Botswana to the United Nations, LLDC Chair, and host of the
LLDC3 Conference,

Excellencies,

I commend you, Co-Chairs, for convening this timely and
important meeting of the Group of Friends of Landlocked
Developing Countries.

I further thank the Permanent Mission of Austria for generously
hosting us at this breakfast meeting.

I thank Ambassador Marschik and Ambassador Enkhbold for
their outstanding role in facilitating an ambitious and forward-looking Programme of Action that we can be proud of.

I thank Ambassador Mokhawa for the outstanding leadership
accorded to the LLDC Group

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Your dedication to the priorities and development needs of
LLDCs is critical to building momentum as we approach the
Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs, which is now just 39
days away.

Today, I am here to underscore the importance of this upcoming
conference, to advocate for the participation of your countries at
the highest possible level, and to convey our unwavering
commitment to making it a resounding success.

Excellencies,

I am happy to report that the preparations for the Conference
are nearing conclusion.

We have been working closely with Botswana as the host
country, UN partners, and key stakeholders to ensure its success.

Registration opened on 4 October

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As you will have seen in my letters, we are supporting 7
participants from each LLDC including 1 CSO, 1 youth
representative, 1 parliamentarian, NFPs, and the Permanent
Representatives and experts of LLDCs from New York.

We have also been able to support the participation of certain
transit developing countries and LDCs. Fostering partnerships
with these countries is critical to the success of LLDC3.

I am still looking to support the participation of the Resident
Coordinators. They will play a crucial role in mainstreaming and
implementing the new Programme of Action.

Excellencies,

The Secretary-General, DSG, P-ECOSOC, and PGA have confirmed
their participation, sending a strong message of commitment
and support to the LLDCs.

The Secretary-General is convening a meeting of the heads of UN
agencies at the Conference to galvanize the UN system in support
of LLDCs in the next decade.

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We are anticipating the participation of as many as 20 heads of
UN agencies and more at the deputy level.

To match these substantive efforts, we must now ensure that the
full commitment of the international community is
demonstrated by strong participation in an expression of