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**UN-OHRLLS**

**Statement by**

**Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray**

**High Representative**

**and**

**Under-Secretary-General**

**Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and  
Small Island Developing States**

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I warmly welcome you all to this training Workshop.

training is part of our long-running efforts to bring countries and experts together around the important issue of transport connectivity for LLDCs in the context of achieving the SDGs.

The aim is to share best practice.

To learn from one another and to establish deliverable plans.

I am grateful to representatives of United Nations system organizations and other partners for their active involvement in supporting this important training.

I would applaud everyone here representing their countries for your commitment to enhance transport connectivity in your regions.

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

In his speech to the General Assembly

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires an urgent improvement to sustainable transport solutions in developing countries.

Improved transit and transport connectivity is also at the heart of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries.

If -one left means anything at all then surely it must mean dramatically improved transport connectivity across these nations.

We know that the transport sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, in both the LLDCs and transit countries.

We know too that pre-existing challenges have been exacerbated still further, such as:

High transport costs;  
Cumbersome border procedures;  
And inadequate transport infrastructure.

To meet these challenges, we must forge stronger cooperation between LLDCs and their neighbours.

Distinguished participants,

We must build transport systems that are resilient to the impacts of external shocks - whether it be climate change, natural disasters, public health emergencies, or global economic downturns.

training will cover the importance of -  
including how to establish legal and regulatory frameworks that promote efficient transit transport.

Above all, I hope that you will share innovative solutions that are already being successfully applied. Solutions that can be adapted, scaled, or localized to yield concrete results.

Regional initiatives such as the Asia Highway Network and Trans-Asia Railway Network have improved connectivity and closed missing links.

The trilateral cooperation for the development of the China-Russia-Mongolia economic corridor is an example of neighbouring countries working together.

This will increase trade, strengthen transit cooperation, and build infrastructure. It is particularly important for Mongolia, a landlocked nation, between two giants.

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The United Nations system, and UN-OHRLLS, will continue to support your efforts to enhance transport connectivity. And to implement the Vienna Programme of Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We have heard a great deal about the need to build bridges in recent days it strikes me that this event is where that metaphor meets reality.

I wish you a successful learning experience.