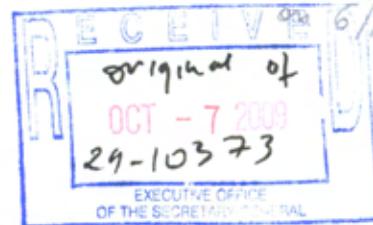


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Note to the Secretary-General

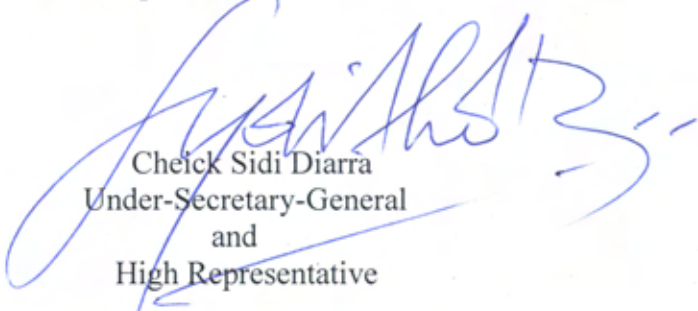


On 25 September 2009, the Foreign Ministers of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) gathered in New York for their Eighth Annual Meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly general debate. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali, H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of LLDCs. The meeting was well attended with a number of foreign ministers. The Meeting adopted a Ministerial Communiqué and the Rules of Procedure for the Group.

The Communiqué reaffirms the LLDC Ministers' unwavering commitment towards the accelerated implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. In the Communiqué, priority attention was given to (i) the continued threats to their development prospects caused by the prolonged global recession; (2) the impacts of climate change on their agriculture production, food security as well as water availability; (3) the crucial importance of ensuring an outcome of the negotiations on trade facilitation at the World Trade Organization that contains globally binding commitments to ensure freedom of transit to expedite the cross-border movement of goods; (4) the call for increased donor support through greater debt relief, grants and concessional lending to assist in mitigating the worst consequences of the global crises and protect the advances made towards the realization of the Almaty Programme objectives and MDGs.

The adoption of the Rules of Procedure marks an important milestone for the Group. With an expanded Bureau, the Group is expected to increase its effectiveness in bringing the special developmental challenges of the landlocked developing countries to the fore in global and regional fora.

The Ministerial Meeting endorsed the Matrix, developed by my Office and adopted by the Fifth Inter-Agency Meeting on the Almaty Programme implementation convened in March this year, as an important step towards better-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation.

  
Cheick Sidi Diarra  
Under-Secretary-General  
and  
High Representative

2 October 2009

cc: Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General  
Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

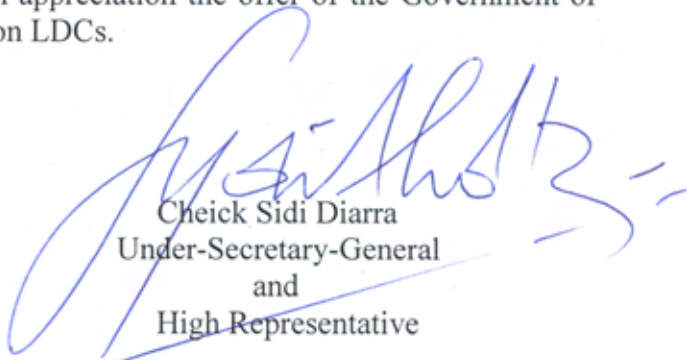


### Note to the Secretary-General

On 29 September 2009, the Foreign Ministers of the Group of the Least Developed Countries met in New York. The meeting was attended by representatives from 30 LDCs. H.E Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh chaired the beginning of the meeting. During the meeting the chair was officially handed over to H.E. Sujata Koirala, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal for the next three years. I delivered the statement on your behalf underlining the impact of the ongoing financial and economic crisis on LDCs, the climate change challenge, highlighted some gaps in the implementation of the Program of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 and presented the progress in the preparation of the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs.

The ministers stressed that although there is an economic and social progress realized in LDCs, this progress is uneven and insufficient. More efforts needed to address the special needs of LDCs. They mentioned climate change and environmental vulnerability, trade facilitation, resource mobilization, technology transfer, food security and infrastructure development in rural areas as important issues for the forthcoming Fourth UN Conference on LDCs to be held in 2011.

The Ministerial Declaration, which was adopted at the meeting, stresses the urgent need to address areas of weakness in the implementation of the Program of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in many LDCs. It calls for scaling up support to LDCs through increased financial and technical support to enable them cope with multiple external shocks and to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable segments of their populations; an early, ambitious, successful and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round. Furthermore it takes note of the progress made in the preparation for the UN LDC IV Conference at national, regional and global levels and commends UN-OHRLLS, UNDP, United Nations Regional Commissions and other United Nations agencies and organizations for their efforts. The ministers welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs.



Cheick Sidi Diarra  
Under-Secretary-General  
and  
High Representative

2 October 2009

cc: Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General  
Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator