The 81st session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Agenda item 4: Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States
Remarks by Mr. Robert Abisoghomonyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Bangkok, 22 April 2025

Thank you, Chair,

At the outset I would like to thank the UN ESCAP for holding this meeting and for its support and constant attention to the complex challenges faced by countries in special situations, particularly by Landlocked Developing Countries.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express our profound appreciation to Madam Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS), and Secretary-General of the Third UN Conference on LLDCs, and her team, for their leadership and tireless efforts in keeping the needs and priorities of Landlocked Developing Countries high on the UN agenda. I reaffirm my Government's full support to OHRLLS in its efforts to accelerate coordinated engagement of the international community in key areas that require urgent attention to support LLDCs in making progress on their priorities.

Recently, we adopted the new Programme of Action for LLDCs for 2024–2034. We are pleased to note that this new document not only reflects the lessons learned from the Vienna Programme of Action, but also introduces concrete steps, commitments, and deliverables by all stakeholders, with a particular focus on increasing the resilience of LLDCs to global shocks that have significantly undermined progress in recent years.

We believe that the international community should consolidate its efforts to translate the new Programme of Action into concrete results on the ground, supporting the transformation of LLDC economies into more resilient and prosperous ones. Particular attention should be given to enhancing regional connectivity, trade facilitation, digitization, effective border-crossing and transit solutions, increasing foreign direct investments, supporting debt relief, and ensuring sustainable development financing for LLDCs.

As a landlocked developing country Armenia recognizes the critical importance of inclusive connectivity, open borders, and fully functioning roads and transport infrastructure. In this context, yesterday I had the opportunity to present the "Crossroads of Peace" project, initiated by the Government of Armenia. This initiative is a testament to our country's commitment to regional peace and cooperation aimed at ensuring the unimpeded movement of people, goods, and services.

We stand ready to work closely with all interested partners to promote equitable and non-discriminatory connectivity in the South Caucasus and beyond, thereby contributing meaningfully to the advancement of inclusive regional and global connectivity.

Finally, let me reiterate that Armenia remains fully committed to effective multilateral cooperation with all partners to implement the renewed measures outlined in the new Programme of Action for LLDCs. We once again express our full support to UNOHRLLS and to the Government of Turkmenistan in their preparations for the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and we look forward to fruitful discussions aimed at building a sustainable and prosperous future for LLDCs.

I thank you.