

**Mr. Chair of the Group of IIDGs,  
Mr. Resident of the General Assembly,  
Ms. Deputy Secretary General,  
Ms. Resident of ECOSOC,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Firstly, allow me to join others in congratulating Under-Secretary-General Rabab Fatima on her appointment as High Representative for IDGs, IIDGs and SIDS. It is my great privilege to participate in this year's meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Landlocked Developing Countries on behalf of Federal Minister Alexander Schallerberg. And it is with great pleasure that we join today's debate as we gather once again in person to discuss the critical challenges faced by IIDGs.**

**Against the backdrop of the current global context, these challenges are more urgent than ever before. Stalled growth, surging inflation, rising energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions and elevated transport costs are constraining landlocked developing countries (IIDGs) to recover from the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.**

**Last year, the General Assembly in its resolution 76/217, called for the convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024. Building on our longstanding partnership with the LLDCs, Austria fully recognizes the importance of the upcoming Third UN Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries. If so decided by the group, Austria stands ready to host the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna in 2024.**

**Thank you for your attention!**