

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor to address this esteemed audience at the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Before I begin, I would like to thank His Excellency Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and Her Excellency Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States ,

I would also like to thank The Government of Turkmenistan; The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States and The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs .

I'm pleased to join you all here today, the global health crisis highlighted that connectivity and resiliency across the global transport sector should be our top priorities .

The UAE has always been at the forefront of addressing regional and global transportation challenges. As a country with boundless potential, great capabilities and qualified competencies, the UAE has continually kept pace with the developments in the maritime sector. Our 20 leading ports and other government and private sector stakeholders have ensured an annual contribution of over AED92 billion to the UAE's GDP .

UAE is not only a developer of local ports but has also expanded its expertise to the global markets through the investments of AD Ports Group, which is actively engaged in developing advanced port facilities and cruise terminals across a vast geographical footprint, including Uzbekistan, Tanzania, Jordan, Oman and Egypt. In addition to significant investments in international trade routes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight lessons learnt while finding solutions to challenges in the transportation industry .

We need to integrate LLDCs into global value chains and markets, increasing regional connectivity and transport corridors through physical infrastructure and cross-border facilitation systems is essential. We must develop mitigation and adaptation measures to alleviate the growing risks of climate change and damage to transport infrastructure.