

**Annual Ministerial Meeting of
Foreign Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries**
(September 23, 2020)

Your Excellency Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan,

Your Excellency Katoa Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General-High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,

Distinguished participants,

First of all, let me commend Kazakhstan Annual Ministerial Meeting on partnering for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Program of Action and achieving sustainable development in LLDCs in the era of COVID-19.

I would like also to thank all previous distinguished speakers for their informative presentations.

Mr. Chair,

Since the adoption of the Vienna Program of Action, Uzbekistan has been taking coherent steps for its smooth implementation. Herein, special attention has been paid to promoting multilateralism by furthering regional cooperation which is one of the important prerequisites for achieving targets identified in the Vienna Program of Action and overall in the SDGs. Such cooperation acquires special significance today when the entire international community tries to tackle the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the current pandemic in Uzbekistan, we have been focusing all our efforts and resources on following directions:

-containing the spread of this dangerous virus by setting special funds;

-rendering assistance to neighboring countries in fighting coronavirus by providing them with needed medical equipment and supplies, foodstuffs and other products of first necessity;

-expanding collaboration with UN and its specialized agencies in mitigating the negative consequences of COVID-19.

In Uzbekistan, we support a notion that no one is safe until everybody is safe.