

**Statement**

**by H. E. Robert Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**of the Republic of Armenia,**

**at the**

**72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission**

**for Asia and the Pacific**

**Bangkok**

Your Excellency, Mr./Ms. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency, Ms. Executive Secretary,

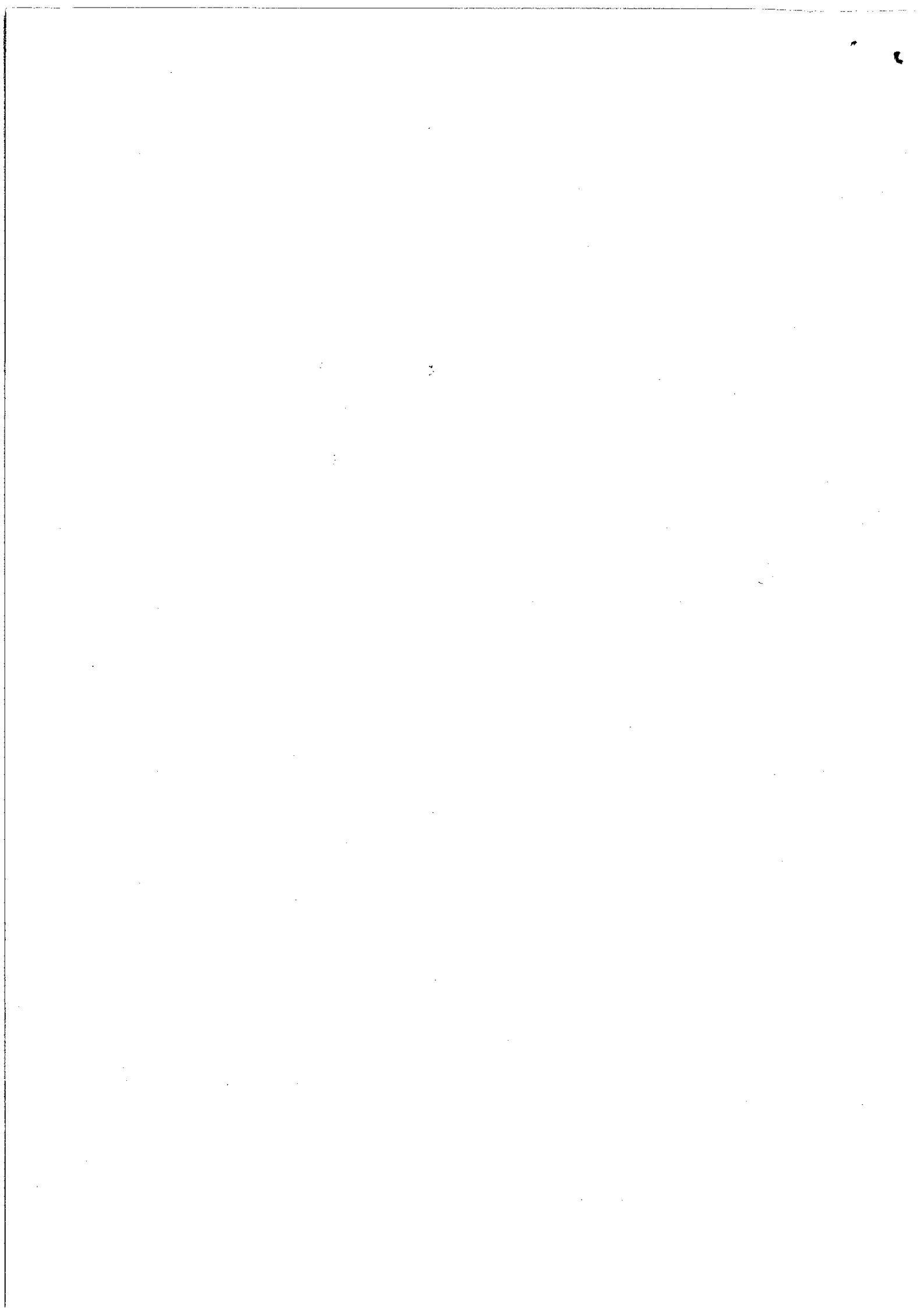
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, at the outset, to express our sincere gratitude to the Royal Thai Government, H. E. Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, the Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat of the UN ESCAP for the excellent organization of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission and to wish us all efficient and productive work.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia attaches utmost importance to the implementation of the main objectives of the Vienna Program. Integration of landlocked developing countries into the global economy is significant to their development. Developing countries, particularly the LLDCs, require the increase of trade and financing. There is a need to build a trade-related infrastructure, technical and productive capacities in order to participate in trade in a fair and beneficial manner. Geographical remoteness and inaccessibility to the sea complicates the access of the landlocked developing countries to the world markets. Their exports suffer due to increased cost of transportation, complexity of customs procedures and other procedural delays. Their imports also face increased delivery costs.

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

The Vienna Action Program for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 has been distributed by the Government of Armenia to the respective governmental structures with the recommendation to duly consider the high priorities of the Action Program with a view to include them into the framework of their activities and the upcoming projects.



In December 2015, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the National Program of the implementation of Vienna Declaration and Action Plan.

Being a landlocked country and having outlets to the sea only via Georgia in the North and via Iran in the South and located on the crossroads between West and East, North and South, Armenia is destined to take an active role in the development of the international transport corridors of TRACECA, North-South and South-Eastern axes of the main trans-European transportation ways.

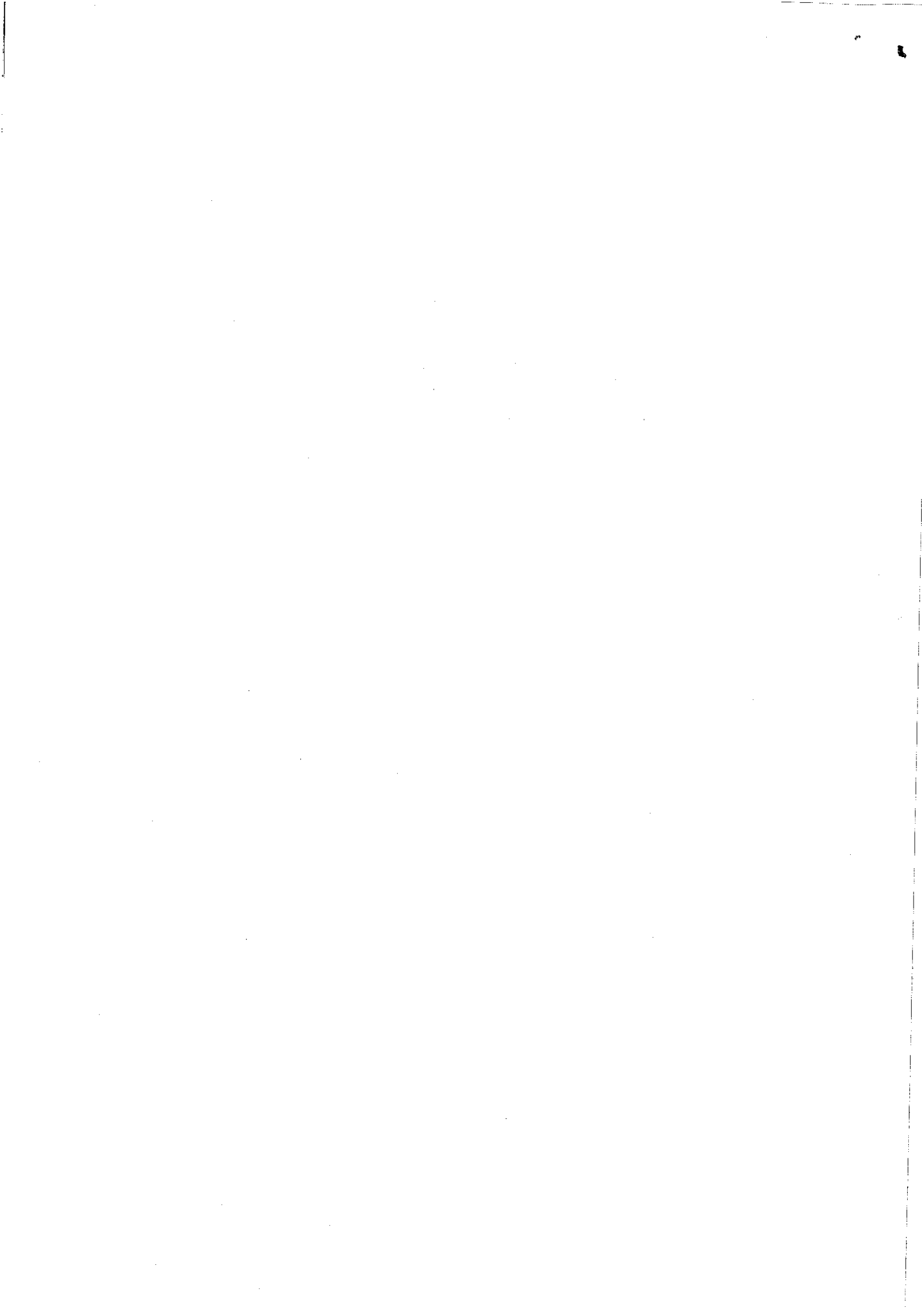
LLDCs need to be supported financially and technologically. In this regard, the cooperation with important financial institutions is of great importance. The integration of the Republic of Armenia in regional and sub-regional programs is also of high importance taking into consideration the ~~to~~<sup>10</sup>-decade long blockade and the policy of isolation towards Armenia by the two neighboring countries.

Regretfully, the unsettled Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the continuous unilateral closure by Turkey of the Armenian Western <sup>border</sup> still creates considerable obstacles for the sustainable economic development of our country particularly in the field of international and regional transport communication.

As a landlocked country, Armenia has the same needs as other LLDCs: development of communications and commerce, trade promotion, poverty eradication for the improvement of the social and economic situation in the country. The geopolitical tensions also put under danger the sustainability of economic development and limit the investments.

At the same time the country spares no efforts to overcome the challenges it's facing, while actively involving itself into international, regional and sub-regional integration processes. In this regard, important progress has been made by Armenia since the adoption of the Vienna declaration and joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), which opens new economic opportunities for attracting investments, mainly from EEU partner member states. It will also boost the Armenian export to the third countries and different organizations within EEC. It's noteworthy to mention the already established EEU - UNIDO, EEU - FAO cooperation.

Armenia, therefore, continues to closely cooperate with international financial organizations on the implementation of vital transport projects targeted at the reconstruction and modernization of the motorway and railway infrastructure. The North- South Road Corridor Investment Program is a major infrastructure project which aims at connecting the Southern border of the country with its Northern point by means of a highway to be built and/or reconstructed according to the international criteria and thus provide access to international markets. The reconstruction and development of the 556 km-long North-South Road Corridor will enable facilitation and intensification of both domestic and foreign transport and trade. The Project implementation, carried out through loans from the Asian Development Bank and, recently, from the European Investment Bank, will lead to the development of efficient transit roads providing access to the Black Sea through the territory of Armenia and Georgia and then to the European countries. The project objectives also include facilitation of access to foreign markets



toward Central Asia and developing Armenia's major economic spheres and export expansion (industry, agriculture, mining industry, construction, tourism) etc.

Despite the problems and challenges that Armenia faces nowadays, my Government keeps looking for effective ways for insuring better life quality for its citizens. In particular, the first wave of reforms in Armenia has laid solid foundations for the package of the second generation of improvements targeted at the increase of the country's competitiveness and the modernization of the economy, accentuating the shift toward a knowledge-based economy.

The IT sector is sure to be a promising one, which was declared as a priority sector for economic development back in 2000. This is one of the fastest growing sectors of economy, which provides a high yield and is attractive for foreign investments. Currently there are multiple projects being implemented in cooperation with local and trans-national companies active in ITC and high-tech sectors towards modernizing the technological education system, training high quality professionals and improving professional skills of the existing staff, supporting innovative ideas, entrepreneurship, start-up companies and job creation, involving new investments, increasing exports, promoting regional development, scaling-up application of innovative IT solutions in all sectors of economy.

Ms. Chairperson,

In the end, I avail myself of this opportunity to once again congratulate all of us on the occasion of the UN ESCAP 72<sup>nd</sup> session and to wish successful work to all delegations and participants.

THANK YOU.

