

Mr. Chairman, The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) has worked since its creation in 2011 with LLDC countries. Based on our experience as an organization located in LLDC state, we understand the challenges that LLDC countries face. The lack of access to maritime ports represents a huge disadvantage for the economy of many countries as we have seen in Central Asia, which is one of the main focuses of our work. Mr. Chairman, the lack of access to the sea denies countries the opportunity of interacting with international markets, making them dependent on bilateral trade with neighboring countries; this makes the LLDC countries' economies dependent on each other, thus creating a dangerous situation if one of the economies collapses. Mr. Chairman, in the case of Central Asia and other parts of the world, this type of isolation hurts the countries to a point when LLDC countries face levels of poverty and economic underdevelopment similar to LDC countries; let me add that some LLDC countries are also LDC countries.

In this regard, we would also like to raise our concern about guidelines used by the United Nations and the international community related to LDC countries. UIMF have had certain experiences during interactions with LDC countries, graduate LDC countries, and countries that are not LDC but share a common indicator: when their economies are not developed enough to be considered as developing, whom we call middle countries. However, as we mentioned already, those middle countries still face challenges which, if are not taken into account, will push them in into conditions similar to the countries considered as LDC.

As a result, Mr. Chairman, the UIMF, considers that it is necessary to revise the LDC standards or to develop a Middle Income Developing Countries (MIDCP) plan so they are not left to survive on their own; we have to understand that most of them are on their way to establish themselves as a solid middle income countries, but that they still face major threats like environmental disasters, or massive viral diseases like HIV -- in the case of Africa -- that could interrupt or diminish their development process. In our opinion, these threats have created a situation where LDC countries are not willing to move on or to improve their economic performance in order to maintain the privileges that they have been given.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to make the following recommendations for the working group:

- 1- To call for intergovernmental collaboration in order to facilitate LLDC countries access to the sea and water channels through the development of a comprehensive taxation program for LLDC country products, allowing them to have access to the international markets, helping them to improve their economy.
- 2- Review the LDC standards and provide a middle ground for graduate LDC and not graduate LDC countries with fragile economies.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) has worked since its creation in 2011 the beginning with LLDC countries. Based on our experience as being an organization located in an LLDC state, we understand the challenges that LLDC countries face. The lack of access to maritime ports oceans or seas represents a huge disadvantage for the economy of many countries as we have seen in Central Asia, which is one of the main focuses of our work. Mr. Chairman, the lack of access to the sea denies countries the opportunity of interacting with international markets, making them dependent on bilateral trade of a bilateral basis market with other neighboring countries; this situation makes the LLDC countries' economies dependent on each other, thus creating a dangerous situation if one of the economies collapses. Mr. Chairman, in the case of Central Asia and other parts of the world, this type of isolation is hurting the countries to a point when LLDC countries are face getting similar levels of poverty and economic underdevelopment similar levels to LDC countries; let me add that some of the LLDC countries are also LDC countries.

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3- Review the LDC standards and provide an middle ground for graduate LDC and not graduate LDC countries which with fragile economies.

Thank you.