

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating UNCTAD Secretariat for launching of the 2015 World Investment Report, notably the "Roadmap and Action Menu for IIA Reform". Addressing this issue is of great importance for countries wishing to reform their international investment agreement system. In this regard we call on UNCTAD to continue its technical assistance on issues related to international investment agreements and in that context look forward to participating in the IIA training course for economies in transition to be held in Minsk end of September.

Taking into account the importance of the trade as an engine of growth the integration to the world economy has been main focus of the foreign policy of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. In the aim of reforms the Republic of Tajikistan joined the World Trade Organization on March, 2013. One of the main goals of membership was reforming investment related legislation and further attracting Direct Foreign Investment. Nevertheless, with gaining the status of WTO member the works on reforms are yet to be completed.

In the framework of cooperation with UNCTAD the Republic of Tajikistan requested the Investment Policy Review which is underway and to this end a workshop is planned to be held in Dushanbe in November this year. We believe that the implementation of the recommendations of this review will contribute to some extent in improvement of investment climate as well as having the system of transparency, predictability and fair competition and we count on UNCTADs support in implementing those recommendations.

Tajikistan is one of the first countries to ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement considering its importance to reduce the expenditure on trade deals related to customs procedures on imports and exports.

As we are all aware Tajikistan being a landlocked country like other Central Asian countries faces special challenges because of lack of direct, territorial access to the sea and their remoteness from world markets, high transport and trade transaction costs, therefore jointly with other landlocked Developing Countries we raise our concerns in various formats including the ongoing negotiations in the WTO and Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing countries 2014-2024 and we look forward to the IIA Conference in the next World Investment Forum.

It should be noted that Tajikistan is organizing International Entrepreneurship Forum on October this year which will be hosted by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, where the Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi is invited. Dushanbe forum will showcase the emerging investment opportunities in Tajikistan's energy and industry, finance and agriculture sectors of the economy and all interested parties are most welcomed to take part in this event.

Thank you.