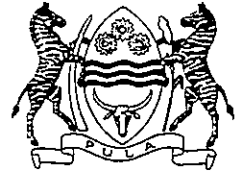


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHARLES T. NTWAAGAE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

HEAD OF DELEGATION

AT THE

**SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)**

HELD IN

**Vienna, Austria
3-5 November 2014**

Please check against delivery.

**President of the Conference,
Your Excellency the President of Austria,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. At the outset, let me align Botswana with the statements delivered by Bolivia and Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and LLDCs in that order.

2. I further wish, on behalf of the President and the People of the Republic of Botswana to sincerely thank the Government of Austria for hosting the Second United Nations Conference of the Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna and for the warm welcome and magnificent hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city.

3. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the President of this Conference and members of the bureau on their election. They deserve to be accorded all the support and cooperation they require to bring the Conference to a successful conclusion.

4. My delegation also subscribes to the theme of this Conference, namely, "Linking landlocked countries to global opportunities". We consider this theme to be very pertinent to the challenges faced by the LLDCs.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5. We meet at a very critical time in the calendar of the United Nations, when the international community will soon draw the

curtains on the Millennium Development Goals, with some having been fulfilled while others are lagging behind.

6. It is also a time when there are several processes geared towards the elaboration of a new development agenda that will carry over from where the MDGs left off.

7. On the other hand, the Almaty Programme of Action which was adopted in 2003 and which had been the linchpin for the development of LLDCs comes to an end after a decade of implementation.

8. Modest progress has been made since its adoption. However there remain many challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, amongst which are participation in the global trading system, extreme poverty, inequality, climate change, to mention but a few.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

9. LLDCs are among the most vulnerable countries in the world. Of the 32 landlocked countries, some belong to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) category while others, like my own, are of Middle Income status, faced with unique yet similar challenges.

10. Fifty percent (50%) of LLDCs face the humiliation of occupying the lower bracket of the Human Development Index. They continue to do poorly in the social development sphere and are at most serious risk of not achieving MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

11. The concerns of LLDCs are varied. Transport costs in comparison to the coastal economies are on the increase and their trade volumes continue to be low. The majority of LLDCs' economies are not well diversified and are mostly single commodity dependent.

12. Food security and agriculture are also threatened by land degradation, desertification and climate change. Moreover, this group is among categories of countries most vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change and is less able to embark on mitigation and adaptation programmes.

13. Economic growth of LLDCs is uncertain due to vulnerability to external shocks and volatility of commodity prices. We in Botswana have not yet fully recovered from a very difficult phase of staggering losses of revenue due to the 2008 global financial and economic crisis.

14. Landlocked countries have to contend with marginalisation mainly due to limitations imposed by the state of not having territorial access to the sea.

15. On account of geography alone, the prohibitive costs of setting up business in LLDCs is denying this group of countries critical investment. This contributes to further emaciation of the already narrow base of LLDCs' economies. LLDCs are also faced with a major disadvantage when it comes to attracting Foreign Direct Investment and this militates against their integration in to the global trading system.

16. We therefore join in calling for the international community to increase its level of development support to LLDCs in order to assist this group of countries to develop the necessary infrastructure to facilitate movement of goods and services.

17. Increased capacity building, technical and financial assistance aimed at supporting development of road, rail and telecommunication networks as well as pipelines for water and energy infrastructure, would go a long way in mitigating transaction costs associated with import and export products of LLDCs.

18. It is in this context that we call for a new robust and transformative Action Plan that will support our efforts towards poverty eradication in the next decade.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

19. Building synergies at bilateral and sub regional-level is critical and funding for projects undertaken at this level should also be given priority by the development partners. LLDCs should be assisted to develop sustainable transportation infrastructure, including, rail, road, fiber optic telecommunication systems, pipelines, power grids and air linkages. This will facilitate quicker and efficient movement of goods and services across borders.

20. In conclusion, Botswana believes that the outcome document that will be adopted here will act as a blueprint for LLDCs during the negotiations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

21. We further call on the international community to take into account the special needs and peculiarities of LLDCs during the inter-governmental negotiations that will take place in New York leading to the adoption of the Post 2015 Development agenda next year.

I thank you for your attention.
