STATEMENT BY
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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 22:
GROUPS OF COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

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Please Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman;

1. Thank you for giving me the floor

2. Let me at the outset align this statement with those delivered by the distinguished representatives of Thailand and Zambia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries in that order.

3. We wish to preface our remarks with a few comments on Sub Item b: “Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”.

4. We also thank the Secretary General for his report A/71/313 on this subject matter.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We note that LLDCs constitute one of the most vulnerable groups and that they continue to face many challenges compounded by their geography and remoteness from world markets. LLDCs trade costs and risks are high in comparison to the coastal economies, and mostly affected by climate change.

6. As stated in the Secretary General’s report on “implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs 2014 -2024”, these are very often exacerbated by poor infrastructure, low levels of development in the information and communications technology as well as severe challenges in gaining access to energy among other.

7. Most of the LLDCs are heavily dependent on a single commodity especially in the mineral and the agricultural sectors which exposes them to the damaging effects of fluctuations in global demand and commodity prices.
8. We concur with the Secretary General that, the Vienna Programme of Action is integral to the 2030 Agenda and that all 17 goals are relevant for LLDCs in their pursuit of sustainable development.

9. The implementation of the VPoA remains key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and these require to be implemented in a coherent and integrated manner.

10. Therefore mainstreaming the two into our national development planning remains critical.

11. It is in this regard that, Botswana at the end of 2015 with the assistance of the OHRLLS convened a national stakeholder’s sensitization workshop aimed at facilitating the mainstreaming of the Vienna Programme of Action into sectoral initiatives to feed into our National Development Plan. We have also mainstreamed the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda in our recently launched Vision 2036.

12. Even though at the national level we are committed to the implementation of the two agendas, we recognise that cooperation and partnerships particularly at the global level are very important.

13. We need the transit countries, regional and sub-regional partners as well as the development partners if we are to fully implement both the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. Furthermore, on trade, we will continue to emphasis that WTO remains critical in integrating the LLDCs in the global trade and therefore the establishment of a specific work Programme to address the specific concerns and needs of LLDCs in order to increase their participation in the multilateral trading system with the key areas on Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade is very important.
15. The recent meeting of Ministers of Transport of LLDCs held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia which was meant to further advance implementation of the VPoA, emphasized the role that sustainable transport plays in driving regional integration and economic development of LLDCs and recognized the transformative potential of transport for structural economic change in the LLDCs when transport is fully aligned with logistics and economic development opportunities of the people.

16. In conclusion Mr. Chairman, Botswana is in agreement that LLDCs need to accede or ratify the relevant international legal instruments that can assist promote trade and transit facilitation, effective border crossing and the movement of goods and services between them and other countries.

17. I thank you for your attention

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