STATEMENT BY

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IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE
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GROUPS OF COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL
SITUATIONS

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Please check against delivery.
Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as Paraguay on behalf of Landlocked Developing Countries.

2. We wish to state that our focus on this agenda item will be on sub-item B on "Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".

3. We thank the Secretary General for his report A/73/297 on Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and fully support his findings and recommendations.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The LLDCs face many development challenges. Transport costs in comparison to the coastal economies are on the increase and their trade volumes continue to be low. The economies of the majority of LLDCs are not well diversified and are dependent on single commodities. As a result, their economies are vulnerable to external shocks and volatility of commodity prices.

5. In addition, food security and agriculture in most LLDCs are affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. Moreover, LLDCs are most vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change and less able to embark on mitigation and adaptation measures.

6. On account of geography alone, the cost factor of setting up business in LLDCs is high, which deprives these countries of the much needed foreign direct investment. Consequently, LLDCs' economies have a narrow base and are not fully integrated to the global trading system.

7. To address the development challenges of the LLDCs, we appeal to the international community to increase their level of support to LLDCs in order to assist this group of countries to develop the necessary infrastructure for movement of goods and services.

8. We also appeal for increased capacity building, technical and financial assistance aimed at supporting the development of road, rail and telecommunication networks as well as water and energy infrastructure. This will go a long way in mitigating transaction costs associated with import and export of products of LLDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Botswana reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including its six priority areas.

10. We continue to make concerted efforts to implement projects that are intended to facilitate quicker and efficient movement of goods across our borders. Notable projects that have been undertaken include the Kazungula Bridge Project, which is a project between the Governments of Botswana and Zambia meant to facilitate movement of goods along the north-south corridor as well as facilitate trade among SADC, COMESA and EAC regional economic communities.

11. Another project that has been undertaken by Botswana, Namibia and South Africa is the Trans-Kalahari Corridor, which is a highway aimed at facilitating faster and cheaper movement of goods between these three countries.

12. Although we have embarked on these projects, we still need support from our development partners to address the myriad challenges that face our economies.

13. In conclusion, we look forward to the upcoming Mid-Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs for the decade 2014-2024 to be held before the end of 2019. This review is crucial because the VPoA complements the 2030 Agenda and our efforts towards poverty eradication.

I thank you for your kind attention.