

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHARLES T. NTWAAGAE

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE FOLLOW-UP INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE MONTERREY CONSENSUS**

1 DECEMBER 2008

DOHA, QATAR

Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly,
 Secretary General of the United Nations,
 Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
 Distinguished Delegates,

Mr. President,

1. Botswana remains fully committed to contributing to the deliberations on the Monterrey Consensus as well as its implementation. I have the pleasant duty, honour and privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana, and I bring a message of goodwill from him to this gathering.

2. Let me begin by commending you most sincerely, Your Highness Emir HAMAD bin Khalifa Al-Thani, for the excellent manner in which the State of Qatar has hosted and managed this conference as well as for the generous hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation.

3. Like others before me, let me express the heartfelt condolences of the Government and People of Botswana to the Government and People of India during the trying times they are going through, following the acts of terrorism inflicted upon her people during the past week. Botswana condemns, in the strongest terms, such acts of criminality against innocent and defenceless people.

Mr. President,

4. It has been almost seven years since this distinguished body adopted the Monterrey Consensus. During this period, mixed results have been achieved in the area of financing for development.

5. An assessment of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus has revealed that serious challenges and constraints to the mobilization of resources for development still persist; some attributable to domestic factors well within the control of countries, and some related to the global environment.

6. In this regard, Botswana fully agrees with the assessment that the following are among the critical prerequisites for attaining sustainable economic development:

- access to financial resources, generated both internally and externally;
- human capacity development to drive innovation and the development process;
- infrastructure development and technology adoption to facilitate economic diversification; and,
- good governance, sound macro-economic policies, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

7. The global nature of trade and investment as well as inter-linkages of capital markets has further exposed the vulnerability of our

economies. Recent developments in particular, clearly demonstrated that neither national boundaries, nor domestic legislation can adequately protect our economies from the turbulence and instability in the financial and economic markets far afield.

8. This requires a high degree of collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society and international financial institutions in order to generate a common understanding with respect to norms and principles necessary to foster sustainable development.

9. This critical dialogue should take place at both the national and international levels. The financial crisis that the world is presently experiencing is evidence enough that such a compact between the public and private sector is absolutely necessary.

10. For commodity dependent economies such as that of Botswana, an economic downturn in the major economies threatens the stability and growth of our export earnings, hence reducing the resources needed to finance critical development projects.

Mr. President,

11. The inadequacy of resources to finance development needs remains a source of great concern for developing countries. There is dire need of assistance to develop effective institutions with the requisite resources and personnel to deal with new and emerging challenges. To meet such challenges, Botswana will continue to engage others in seeking new and innovative sources of financing. We believe there is ample opportunity to expand avenues for bilateral, regional and South-South cooperation.

Mr. President,

12. The outcomes of the major UN conferences and Summits, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, provide us with a comprehensive sustainable development programme which requires resources to finance. This Doha Review Conference provides us a unique opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to generate such resources in order to enhance the development prospects of our countries, and thereby improve the living conditions of our people.

13. I also have to emphasize that development is a process that needs to be nurtured and sustained in order to avoid the risk of reversing hard won achievements in poverty reduction, among other challenges of human development. In addition, countries need injection of financial resources to continuously invest in and upgrade physical infrastructure which facilitates development activities.

14. In this context, Your Excellency, there is urgent need for the international community and the UN System, to give due attention to the development needs of Middle Income Countries. Botswana, like other countries in this category, finds herself falling between the cracks as far as Official Development Assistance and other forms of concessionary financing are concerned. On the other hand the country faces a web of challenges including significant levels of poverty, unemployment and the HIV/AIDS pandemic which diverts a substantial fraction of resources earmarked for development activities.

15. This, in our view, calls for a shift in the orientation of development assistance in order to ensure that Middle Income Countries do not regress in their development.

16. In this regard, Botswana is encouraged by the fact that the Monterrey Review process undertakes to give priority attention to the needs of Middle Income Countries, in addition to renewing the international community's commitment to enhancing partnerships for mutual benefit.

17. The tenets of the Monterrey Consensus remain as valid today as they were seven years ago. It still goes without saying, that every country has primary responsibility for its own development. We in Botswana are firmly committed to creating and maintaining a conducive environment for our people to realize their fullest potential, individually and collectively.

18. In conclusion, Mr. President, it is critical for all of us, as partners in development, to remain committed to the conclusions of this conference and to facilitate their successful implementation.

19. Let us hold ourselves accountable for the commitments we have made and summon the necessary courage and political will to implement these undertakings. My delegation is fully convinced that these are definitely achievable.

20. I thank you for your attention.