

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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

DURING THE

**"ECOSOC FORUM ON FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT"**

**23 – 26 APRIL 2018
NEW YORK**

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Mr. President,

1. Let me at the outset associate Botswana with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Mali on behalf of the Africa Group as well as Paraguay on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries in that order.
2. Botswana believes that this Forum on Financing for Development remains a very important platform that offers the opportunity for all stakeholders to take stock of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, including finding new avenues of raising the much needed resources to help the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. We therefore wish to thank the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development for the report that continues to inform the deliberations of this Forum, as well as the various presenters for their insightful briefings. It would be remiss of my delegation not to thank the Co-Facilitators for their able stewardship of the negotiations of the outcome document.

Mr. President,

4. We echo the concerns of other countries that have spoken before us, as a majority of them including my own country, are still faced with challenges such as extreme poverty, high levels of unemployment, external debt burden, lack of or dwindling financial aid and the negative effects of climate change.
5. According to the IATF report, there has however been progress in the implementation of the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, even though much still remains to be done.

Mr. President,

6. My delegation believes that, even though countries are responsible for their own development, the global challenges require global solutions and the involvement of all stakeholders.

7. Therefore, in order to address the issue of financing for development we cannot overlook the fact that without proper and sustainable development policies both at national, regional and international levels, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will merely remain a mirage.
8. Mobilizing domestic and international resources, including through Foreign Direct Investment and other financial flows, Official Development Assistance, consistent international monetary and trading systems to mention but a few, remain critical to the eradication of poverty and achieving the SDGs in order to leave no one behind.
9. For developing countries to overcome challenges such as eradication of poverty; widening gaps within and among countries; ODA is required to spur economic and social progress in both short and long term. It can contribute immensely to building both human and institutional capacities.
10. We therefore urge donor countries/ development partners to untie ODA, harmonizing donor policies and procedures to suit the recipient countries needs and circumstances. These should link to the development plans of the developing countries, including the fulfillment of the commitments made of 0.7% of GNI to developing countries including the 0.15 to 0.20% of GNI to Least Developed Countries.

Mr. President,

11. Trade is a key driver of development but for it to be beneficial to developing countries; the realities of the asymmetries have to be taken into consideration. This has to be cultivated and facilitated by conducive policies and institutional mechanisms at national, regional and international levels. In this regard, ensuring equity in the multilateral trading system.
12. There is a need to strengthen a rules based, open, transparent and predictable international trading system. We not only believe that protectionist measures harm international trade, but believe

that they also undermine the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Botswana, like many other developing countries, is hindered from fully benefiting from the opportunities availed by international trade. This is due to a multiplicity of reasons, including having a low resource base; single commodity dependency, trade facilitation constraints, including lack of supporting infrastructure; and the fact that we are a landlocked country. These constraints limit our ability to access markets that have already been secured.

Mr. President,

14. It has been well articulated that Science, Technology and Innovation play a critical role in economic growth and job creation.

15. We therefore look forward to the upcoming third Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals to be held this June.

Mr. President,

16. In conclusion Botswana, particularly in the light of her peculiar situation as a landlocked, middle-income developing country, calls for dialogue and cooperation between the UN, donor countries and agencies, other stakeholders and the developing countries so as to enhance coherence in multilateral development policies.

I thank you for your attention.

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