

STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA

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ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Chairperson,
Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mr Rubens Ricupero
Colleagues Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a distinct honour and privilege for me, on behalf of the Botswana delegation, to join the other speakers who preceded me in congratulating you most sincerely on your election as the Chairperson. We are confident that under your guidance, our deliberations will be crowned with success.
2. I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of Brazil, this great country, for hosting the eleventh United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and for the warm hospitality, which has been extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Sao Paulo.
3. Allow me Chairperson to thank you and the Secretary General for your stewardship during the preparatory process for this important Conference. Indeed we recognize

the enormous challenges you faced to get us to where we are today.

4. I am informed that this is actually the Secretary General Ricupero's last UNCTAD Conference, as he will be proceeding on retirement in the near future. It is therefore proper and fitting that I should seize this opportunity to pay tribute to him for the efficiency, vision and dynamism with which he led the UNCTAD Secretariat. We therefore wish him the very best in his retirement.

5. Chairperson

This Conference comes at an opportune time in that it also coincides with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of UNCTAD and the Group of 77 and China. The Conference provides Member States an opportunity to reflect on the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action and to collectively take stock of the developments in the international arena which have had an impact on trade, investment and development in developing countries since UNCTAD X in 2000.

6. Just a few months ago, Chairperson, many of us were at another Conference, in Cancun. We thought we were there to take stock of the progress made in the negotiations since

the Doha Ministerial Conference. I am afraid we all returned from Cancun empty handed, developed and developing countries alike. But the main challenge for both of us developed and developing countries is to demonstrate increased political will and pick up the pieces so as to ensure successful conclusion of the negotiations in the coming months. In this regard Chairperson, it is our firm believe that UNCTAD can play an important role in ensuring that this is achieved.

7. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the outcomes of other international conferences such as the Third UN Conference on the LDCs, the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the World Summit on Information Society is also equally important.

8. Chairperson,
The need for effective discharge of UNCTAD's mandate through research and policy analysis, inter-governmental consensus building and technical assistance and capacity building cannot be over-emphasised. Chairperson, countries like Botswana, and many other developing countries have immensely benefited from UNCTAD's activities to better understand and become more effective players in the

multilateral trading system. We recognize the need for UNCTAD to remain a forum where the developed and the developing countries can exchange views fairly and freely on an equal footing.

9. We all need the multilateral trading system to address the pertinent issues such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Poverty, foreign debt issues, the Official Development Assistance (ODA), Market Access, decline in commodity prices to mention but a few. These issues Chairperson are of critical importance to Botswana and UNCTAD has to play an active role in assisting developing countries as they continue to meaningfully address issues of promoting coherence at both the national and international levels.
10. Chairperson, we have noted with concern, that funding for UNCTAD has been declining over the years. This has meant that the support that UNCTAD has been providing to developing countries, especially with capacity building programs for trade negotiations, has been reduced. The worst hit by these budgetary constraints was Africa where substantive field studies were not carried out much, to the disappointment of our people. This does not paint a good picture for this organization and this has adverse impact on

the integration of developing countries into the global economy.

11. There is therefore need to urge traditional donors to continue funding UNCTAD for it to be able to continue supporting and capacity building developing countries.
12. In conclusion, Chairperson, let me once more reiterate my appeal for all of us to garner the necessary political will to facilitate successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations in order that all countries, big and small, rich and poor, can equitably reap the benefits of the multilateral trading system.
13. I thank you.