

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY**

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

**OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)**

**RIO+20:**

**NEW YORK, 15 - 16 DECEMBER 2011**



Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation associates itself with the Statement delivered by my colleague, the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group as well as the Statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G77 and China.
2. My delegation welcomes the opportunity provided by this Intersessional Meeting to make a contribution to the ongoing process of building towards Rio+20. Botswana views Rio+20 as a great opportunity to reaffirm commitment towards the attainment of sustainable development goals including the MDGs. Rio+20 should therefore address key challenges and provide incentives to abandon unsustainable policies and practices and accelerate progress towards the eradication of poverty.
3. Botswana responded to an invitation from the Co-Chairs and made her submission to the compilation document by the set date of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011. We hope that following consideration of the compilation documents during this Intersessional, our views will also be reflected in the zero draft of the outcome document that will serve as the basis for negotiations early next year.
4. In response to the question that has been posed regarding the Structure and Format of the Outcome Document, Botswana envisages an outcome in Rio that could unlock and renew political will as well as commitment to fulfil outstanding pledges, support and financial assistance, review progress and implementation, to address gaps and challenges as well as new and emerging issues in order to enhance delivery of sustainable development goals. Therefore the Rio+20 outcome document should be an instructive and action-oriented political statement.
5. My delegation is of the view that Rio+20 should be able to unleash the true potential of the existing intergovernmental structures in order to bring about efficiency, coordination and integration across all the three pillars of Sustainable development.
6. Botswana is confident that Rio 2012 provides a welcome opportunity for us to make the case that a green economy can help us generate a practical policy framework towards economic, environmental and social revival.
7. The concept of Green Economy resonates well with the approach of the Government of Botswana to long-term national development policy and strategies. Botswana therefore subscribes to the notion of Green Economy with the understanding that it does not contradict sustainable development but rather provides an approach to further define the economics of sustainable development. The concept should therefore provide a full examination of the current economic models and practices with a view to placing environmental and social equity considerations at the intersection of sustainable development.
8. Given the potential of green economy to spur investments in low carbon technology, transition from old technologies should be gradual and appropriately financed. Accordingly, capacity building, new technology and skills transfer as well as training to aid proper transitioning to a Green Economy are imperative.
9. Botswana underscores the importance of ensuring that green economy concept results in developing and maintaining a balance between the need for countries in transition, whose economies rely on natural resources, to be assisted with new technology and financing to enable them to continue to benefit from their natural resources in a way that is less harmful

to the planet. In this regard, the concept of green economy should develop models that could be employed by natural resource-endowed countries to help them translate their natural resource abundance into economic prosperity through prudent investment and utilization of mineral revenue and beneficiation in order to achieve broader development goals such as improving the welfare of their citizens in health, education and building of infrastructure as well as assistance in meeting their national and global internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs.

10. In response to the question on assessments and measurements tools, Botswana is of the strong opinion that countries must commit to a process of 'accounting for the environment' by quantifying the value that natural systems bring to our economies. Sustainable consumption and production including the full product life cycle and value chain assessment, ecological footprint awareness, should be an integral part of new ways of measuring national 'wealth', specifically with new indicators on societal well-being and environmental concerns like energy emissions and the materials used in manufacturing.
11. GDP was never intended to measure national welfare! Not only does it fail to address the well-being of people or environmental quality, but the averaging of incomes per capita in GDP masks poverty gaps, and inequity and social justice issues. A global metric system should consider such indicators as the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) to measure the sustainability of well-being or income through access to a range of indicators including health, education, political decision making, security and the fair and equitable distribution of resources.
12. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to underscore that desertification drought and land degradation should feature prominently in the outcome of Rio+20. The Conference should give emphasis to the effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Desertification including the promotion and strengthening of scientific research base on desertification, drought and land degradation, as well as provision of adequate and predictable financing, technology transfer and capacity building to combat desertification.
13. Let me conclude by reiterating that Rio+20 will need to provide a framework for bringing sustainable development into core economic decision-making through a process of broad stakeholder participation and working towards the same common goals - that of balancing the needs of people and the planet.
14. I thank you.