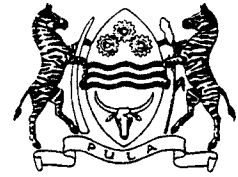


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

154 EAST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. (212) 889-2277



STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE TSHEKEDI KHAMA, M.P.
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND TOURISM
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

AS DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY

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

**DURING THE
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL
FORUM**

08 JULY 2015, NEW YORK

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1. Let me at the outset align my delegation with the statements delivered by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China. Botswana takes the floor to offer some perspectives from the national front.

Mr. President,

2. The theme that is under discussion "*Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015*" is befitting international discourse at this particular juncture in global development. The international community is at a critical, and yet opportune time to frame a new future, a new world that prospers all humanity, leaving absolutely no one behind.
3. In September this year, World leaders will adopt an ambitious and transformative agenda for global development to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which shall soon have their curtains drawn.
4. In order to ready itself for this momentous milestone, the international community has over the past two years, earnestly engaged in extensive participatory processes meant to ensure that the new agenda lives up to its purpose of being wholly transformative, sustainable and inclusive.
5. All of these processes have a critical role to play in focusing, and strengthening the capacity of States, the UN and other relevant actors in development at the international and domestic level, to effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
6. Notably, Mr. President, it is critical that the processes clearly articulate the very specific capacity needs of developing countries including those in special situations and Middle Income Countries where more than 70% of the world's poorest populations are found.
7. Poverty eradication and the provision of equal access to basic human necessities by all members of a society, remain major development challenges in many countries across the World. Many of these countries, including my own, require assistance to build their capacity, as well as the transfer of technology, to confront these issues.
8. We heard from the distinguished Speakers and Panelists who opened this Ministerial Session yesterday, that collective will and action to achieve economic, social and environmental development simultaneously as envisioned in the outcome document of Rio+20, can have a truly transformative effect on the future of our humanity and the living planet.
9. The achievements made in the implementation of the MDGs, as highlighted by the Secretary General in his final report, are a clear illustration of this fact, and indeed of the possibilities for global prosperity that rest before us, should we choose to pay

attention. As one panelist pointedly yet poignantly stated, the choice is a simple one - self interest and profit margins or poverty eradication and the well-being of humankind.

Mr. President,

10. Whilst we have noted that the MDGs registered significant and encouraging progress on the path to development, there are still considerable challenges ahead which must be addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Botswana maintains that the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) has a unique and fundamental role to play in ensuring the follow-up, review and effective implementation of the SDGs.
12. The Forum must become a reference point for strategic guidance, recommendations and political leadership in the implementation of the new agenda. It should promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt, whilst fostering system-wide coherence of sustainable development policies and implementation mechanisms.
13. In order to effectively accomplish this, the HLPF must enable the full participation of Member States, allowing for their greater engagement with the Heads of UN agencies and international organisations as well as independent experts who address it. Equally important, is the need to have a transparent and participatory approach to the agenda of the Forum itself.
14. The increased dialogue would engender better understanding of the Forum's decisions and more importantly, ownership which invariably translates into more effective implementation.
15. My delegation would also welcome a further and more in-depth discussion on how the HLPF should necessarily be strengthened in order to take on the increasingly wide-range of issues for its follow-up and review, as well as how to ensure a bottom-up and wholly participatory approach to the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. President,

16. We wish to conclude by assuring you of our constructive engagement throughout the various processes leading to the adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, its full implementation, as well as the work of the HLPF towards the "*Future We Want*".

I thank you for your attention.