STATEMENT

BY

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UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by extending to you and other members of the Bureau, my delegation’s congratulations on your assumption of the leadership of the Committee.

2. The delegation of Botswana associates itself with the statements delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group as well as Laos on behalf of the Landlocked Developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

3. A little over two weeks ago, our Heads of State and Government delivered strong messages resonant with the theme that has been chosen by the President of the General Assembly for the 68th Session: “Post 2015; Setting the Stage”

4. A clear roadmap has therefore been well articulated and should provide sufficient guidance as we embark on the enormous task of consideration of items before this Committee.

5. My delegation also welcomes the successful inauguration of the High Level Political Forum and the convening of the Special Event on the MDGs, the outcome of which will be pivotal to the transition process of winding up the global agenda that was anchored around the MDGs and charting a new course inspired by Sustainable Development priorities.

6. There has never been such an opportune moment like this one

7. The eyes of the international community will be fixed on the various intergovernmental processes already underway to set the stage for the post 2015 development agenda.

8. The work of the Second Committee therefore promises to be more than “business as usual”.

9. In addition to developing global policy framework to respond to the challenges faced mainly by developing countries, a substantial amount of the Committee’s deliberations will be on thematic discussions and interactive sessions all aimed at preparing a landscape for the post 2015 development agenda.
Mr. Chairman,

10. It is reassuring that we started off on a good footing, as I have mentioned earlier, with the convening of the High Level meetings, in particular the HLM on the review of the Millennium Development Goals, the HLM on Migration and Development and the conclusion of the Sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development just a few days ago.

11. Of necessity, many agenda items in our work programme will in one way or the other encapsulate reflections about what lies ahead in the various processes currently unfolding.

12. That is why this time, the issues of eradication of poverty and hunger, access to water and sanitation, access to quality health care, the fight against diseases such as HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the need to combat the incidence of NCDs, as well as addressing the challenges of climate change, desertification, access to energy and the entire sustainable development chapter will all assume a much broader focus during the 68th Session.

13. Owing to the meditative environment of the post 2015 development agenda, the business of the Second Committee should naturally extend beyond providing status assessment of agenda items.

14. For instance, there should be a careful examination of how the fulfillment of previous commitments surrounding key items before this Committee, could accompany a new development framework of cooperation.

15. This is necessary in order to foster an agenda for development which is inclusive, transformative in character and appealing to ordinary people around the world facing varying levels of deprivation and underdevelopment.

Mr. Chairman,

16. My delegation therefore is encouraged that this crucial session of the General Assembly also coincides with the biennial consideration of agenda item "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries". Priority should be given to addressing the special situation and prevailing challenges of widespread poverty, income inequalities, disparities in accessing of basic needs and services in this category of countries that constitute 74 percent of the world population- according to the Report of the Secretary General A/68/265.
Mr. Chairman,

17. My delegation also looks forward to discussions that would to the 2014 Ten-Year comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

18. We can never overemphasize the importance of technical assistance and capacity building and financial support that is required to lessen the geographical impediments faced by LLDCs on the account of lack of territorial access to the sea.

19. Priorities of Almaty Programme of Action therefore remain key to the integration and contribution of LLDCs into the global economy. Assistance with infrastructure development, trade liberalization, harmonization of customs and transit regulations will go a long way in facilitating the export of goods and services emanating from LLDCs into the international markets.

20. In this respect the concerns related to LLDCs should be incorporated into the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

21. Lastly, I wish to highlight the unique challenge my country faces as a result of climate change induced factors that are conspiring to undermine our development efforts. Botswana faces a critical shortage of water supply. Water sources continue to dry up and rainfall has become less and less reliable. Alarmingly, the severity of the situation has not been met with corresponding response in the UNFCCC process to urgently give priority and assistance to countries in arid, semi arid and desert environments such as my own. We look forward to the support of many delegations and unity of purpose as the business of the Committee shifts its attention to this important item of Climate Change in the coming weeks.

22. To conclude, I wish to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation as we grapple with the issues before us during this session.

23. I thank you