STATEMENT

BY

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THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING
THE SECOND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 21:
globalization and interdependence;
(c) Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries

23 October, 2013
New York

Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman

1. My delegation aligns itself with the Statements delivered by Fiji on behalf of the G77 as well as Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group.

2. The 68th Session of the General Assembly coincides with the Committee's biennial consideration of sub item (b) "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries." We note that an opportunity to focus the attention of the international community on the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by Middle Income Countries may not come again until after two years.

3. We thank the Secretary-General for his assessment and recommendations regarding the priorities of Middle Income countries contained in his report A/68/265.

4. Classification of Middle Income countries incorporates a very broad category of countries with a wide range of economic performance and different levels of development.

5. Despite the average positive economic growth amongst Middle Income countries, the broad classification of this group of countries masks pockets of poverty and serious gaps in the overall
progress towards achievement of internationally agreed goals including MDGs. Among the notable illustrations of the complicated story of advancement in Middle Income Countries is that, they account for two thirds of the world population still leaving on less than $1.25 per day.

6. The reality is that there are still many countries in the Middle Income category with a long way to go. Challenges associated with poverty, access to health, undernourishment, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, high unemployment rates and access quality education still persist in Middle Income countries.

7. Improving the coordination and cooperation of the United Nations system through the establishment of an inter-agency action plan provides one of the best approaches in responding to the needs of Middle Income Countries.

8. There is also evidence that a small number of Middle Income Countries have graduated to high income category between 1960 and 2008. The rest were mostly countries that once experienced rapid economic growth and later stagnated or even more worrisome, faced with possibility of a decline and receding to low income status.
9. My delegation therefore supports the call for the development of a comprehensive strategic framework for development cooperation with middle-income countries encompassing refined classification system and broader measures of measuring wealth beyond GDP.

10. We also wish to support the conclusions of the Secretary-General calling for the establishment of a UN system inter-agency plan of action to improve coordination and cooperation with Middle Income countries. Such a coordination mechanism could be instrumental in aligning programming activities of the UN system with the specific needs of Middle Income countries.

11. Lastly my delegation wishes to emphasize that the post 2015 development agenda should take into account the peculiarities of Middle Income countries and should incorporate the need for transfer of technology, financial assistance and building productive capacity of this group of countries to increase their competitiveness, role and contribution in the global economy.

12. I thank you Mr. Chairman