



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



LLDC3
3rd United Nations
Conference on the
Landlocked Developing
Countries

STATEMENT

DELIVERED

**BY MR. MONEI RAPULENG
COUNSELLOR, BOTSWANA MISSION TO THE UN**

ON BEHALF OF

THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)

**MONDAY, 22 JANUARY 2024
10:00 – 13:00 HOURS
CONFERENCE ROOM 4**

Please check against delivery

- **Excellencies, Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee;**
- **Secretary-General of the Conference (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs);**
- **Special Adviser for the Conference (Under-Secretary and High Representative - OHRRLLS);**
- **Excellencies.**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

2. At the outset, the Group of LLDCs wishes to reiterate its unwavering support to the aspirations of the Small Island States (SIDS), who are uniquely vulnerable to various climate related shocks; owing to their geographical location, high exposure to disasters and natural hazards and limited adaptive capacity.

3. In view of these special circumstances they face, it is important to support the SIDS in order that they are not left behind on the road to prosperity and fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, by 2030.

4. We therefore, consider this process as an opportunity to renew international solidarity with the Group, through renewed momentum towards the Fourth International SIDS Conference (SIDS4) to be held

in Antigua and Barbuda this May, under the overarching theme “*Charting the course towards resilient prosperity*”.

Excellencies,

5. As the world continues to grapple with a series of overlapping crises including, climate change, food insecurity, debt distress, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, and the impact of COVID-19; it is imperative to recognize that these challenges severely affect vulnerable countries including the SIDS.

6. In this context, as we engage today, it is essential for us to address the two pivotal questions outlined by the SIDS in their Draft Outcome Document;

- **What Do SIDS Want? ; and**
- **How Do SIDS Get There?**

7. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have already elaborated essential steps that must be adopted at this critical juncture to address ongoing challenges and build resilience for the future. They therefore, requires innovative solutions and adequate means to implement the priorities that they have identified, thereby accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and overcoming their most deeply entrenched vulnerabilities.

8. In the same vein, the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are also navigating a similar path to identify innovative solutions and initiatives as key deliverables for the Third LLDCs Conference. These endeavors aim to effectively address the pressing challenges faced by 32 LLDCs.

9. We therefore, reiterate our call for strengthened support and cooperation from the international community, as we embark on the journey of formulation of the ten-year Programme of Action and work towards its effective implementation.

10. We look forward to your constructive engagement and support throughout the preparatory processes and your active participation at the SIDS4 in Antigua and Barbuda this May and at the LLDC3 in Rwanda, this June.

I thank you for your kind attention.
