



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



LLDC3
3rd United Nations
Conference on the
Landlocked Developing
Countries

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
CHAIR OF THE GROUP OF LLDCs**

ON BEHALF OF

THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)

DURING THE 2024 PARTNERSHIP FORUM

**TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024
10:00 – 13:00 HOURS
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**

Please check against delivery

Your Excellency Ms. Paula Narvaez, President of ECOSOC;
Your Excellency USG-DESA on behalf of H.E Ms. Amnia
Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General
Excellencies

Dear Colleagues,

- 1.** I have the honor to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).
- 2.** Allow me at the outset commend you once again Ambassador Paula Narvaez for the successful convening of the ECOSOC Special Meeting in Santiago, where I had the honour to participate.
- 3.** I also commend you for your excellent work at the helm of ECOSOC and thank you for convening us today in this Partnership Forum under the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions".

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- 4.** For the 32 Landlocked Developing Countries, this meeting could not be timelier and more relevant, as we gear up preparations for the Third United Nations on Landlocked Developing Countries.

5. The importance of partnerships lies at the very heart of our upcoming Conference, starting with the theme we all chose for it: **“Driving Progress through Partnerships”**.
6. As implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action is winding up, we have witnessed that despite some progress, LLDCs are off-track to achieve its priorities. The reversal on progress in many other areas has further endangered our prospects to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), halfway to the deadline of Agenda 2030.
7. You will agree with me that, while the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be over, we are still reeling from its impacts. We find ourselves grappling with a confluence of challenges - conflicts, climate change, and global economic uncertainties, all of which threaten to undermine our collective efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
8. In this regard, as we delve into the SDGs during this year's High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), it's evident, as highlighted by other esteemed speakers, that the world remains "significantly off track" in accomplishing all the SDG Goals under Review. This is particularly true for LLDCs.

Excellencies,

- 9.** Less than two months ago, the LLDCs had an impressive turnout at the joint GA-ECOSOC event on LLDCs. We were really overwhelmed by the strong support and substantive contributions by transit countries, development partners, international organizations and multiple stakeholders, as true reflection of 'partnerships'.
- 10.** I would like to invite you to keep the momentum and actively engage in the upcoming first session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the LLDC3 Conference, which will be held from 5 to 8 February. In this session we will start shaping the new programme of action for LLDCs.
- 11.** This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to agree on a development agenda that could transform the reality of LLDCs by addressing their longstanding challenges derived from their geographical constraints and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and beyond.
- 12.** As ambitious, innovative and action-oriented the new programme of action can result, it will only be as effective as the partnerships we forge for its implementation.
- 13.** Let us therefore all commit to being partners in connecting the LLDCs to sustainable development.

I thank you all for your kind attention.