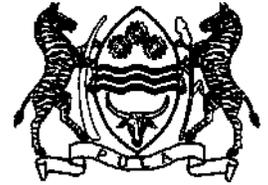


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. FESTUS G. MOGAE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

AT THE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

Check against delivery

1. Mr. President, two years after our historic Summit, at which we agreed on the Millennium Development Goals we met at Monterrey to address the challenges of financing development. This resulted in the Monterrey Consensus, which re-affirmed the urgent need to eradicate poverty while achieving sustainable growth and development.
2. Of special significance was the recognition that increased official development assistance flows and the removal of trade barriers were necessary if developing countries were to ever achieve their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
3. Recent reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, indicate that there has been only limited progress in the achievement of the MDGs, especially on the African Continent. In this respect major hurdles that were identified five years ago persist.
4. Programmes to address major health challenges in Africa, such as the scourge of HIV and AIDS and high maternal mortality, are underfunded. The number of people living in extreme poverty remains high.
5. Mr. President, the experience of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is not an exception to that of the rest of Africa and the developing world. While we have managed to reduce gender disparities in education and succeeded in improving access to sanitation and other basic facilities, great disparities remain in the levels of development both within and between our countries.
6. It is now well known that our region is the hardest hit by the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The virus has contributed to a deterioration of our human development indices over the last few years. Other challenges facing our region include high levels of poverty and income inequalities, persistent food and emerging water shortages, both largely due to drought, environmental degradation as well as institutional, policy and resource constraints.

7. Mr. President, an area where SADC needs to continue to make progress is in working towards policy reforms at both the national and international levels, such as through the NEPAD initiative. At national level, this should include institutional capacity building, the integration of the MDGs into country owned long-term development strategies, and effective and transparent management of natural resources. All of this can be achieved through continued commitment to good governance and partnership-building with all stakeholders.

8. At the international level, the SADC member states will continue to join with others in seeking a fairer international trading system, broad based debt relief and the financing of new commitments through grants. These are some of the steps by which we can realise the Monterrey Consensus.

9. We recognise that developing countries, including the SADC members, have a role to play towards implementing the Monterrey Consensus by mobilising their own resources. But, given the challenges that face us, there is a need for others to also do more between now and 2015. In this context, we take this opportunity to once more call for the fulfilment of the commitment by the more advanced countries to ensure the allocation of 0.7% of the Gross National Income as official development assistance.

10. We are happy to acknowledge and welcome recent efforts aimed at releasing resources for development in the developing countries, such as debt relief and improved market access for our products.

We here applaud the UK Government for spearheading the International Finance Facility to support immediate front-loading of ODA to achieve the 0.7% not later than 2015. We further recognize with appreciation those EU Member States who have either already met the ODA target or who have set timetables to achieve it.

11. It is necessary to make progress on the Doha Development Round. While one appreciates pledges for more aid and recent declarations for debt write-offs, more than anything else, many more developing countries need to be able to also enjoy the benefit of greater export led growth.

12. While some of our countries have benefited from debt relief strategies, including the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, this has not as yet resulted in debt sustainability in the region. This underscores the need for the cancellation of debts that cannot be serviced without placing a burden on impoverished people in the region.

13. Mr. President, let me express the particular concern that some developing countries that have made progress towards realizing the MDGs through good governance and the pursuit of sound macro-economic policies, are at times disadvantaged because they are deemed to have attained the status of being middle income countries. Efforts should be made to assist countries such as my own, which are still in the process of consolidating their economic gains.

14. Mr. President, let me conclude, by reiterating that the SADC region remains united in its commitment to work towards the collective achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through partnership among its own members and the wider world.

15. I thank you.