



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

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations on Sustainable Development and has the honour to attached herewith response from the Government of Botswana for questionnaire to facilitate national inputs and submissions to the process on development of Sustainable Development Goal's.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations on Sustainable Development the assurances of its highest consideration.

**5 November 2012  
New York**

**Division for Sustainable Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Headquarters'  
New York**



## **Questionnaire related to the development of Sustainable Development Goals**

*Although countries are making impressive progress towards agreed international development targets including the MDGs, Botswana views Rio+20 as a great opportunity to recommit to the MDGs and pursue an inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible sustainable development process. The commitment towards the attainment of the MDGs should therefore address key challenges and provide incentives to stop unsustainable policies and practices and accelerate progress towards the eradication of poverty.*

*Botswana believes that there is relevance in undertaking a thorough review of internationally agreed development goals including MDGs', and all resolutions and recommendations adopted at international fora since Rio 1992 with a view to get a full overview of which of these metrics and decisions are still valid and require a consolidated follow-up. Consideration should furthermore be given to 'upgrade' the current MDGs to a 'next-generation' set of Sustainable Development Goals.*

Botswana Initial Submission to UNCSD (October 2011)

### Questionnaire (28 September 2012)

**Q1. Please list a limited number, preferably between five and ten, of the important priority areas that must be addressed through the SDGs to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development**

- Poverty eradication and human development;
- Decent employment and economic diversification;
- Social protection and up-liftment (access to quality health and education services);
- Food nutrition and security;
- Governance, safety and security;
- Sustainable environment (climate change adaptation and mitigation; biodiversity conservation; sustainable management of natural resources; population development and urbanisation).

**Q2. How might the SDGs strive to balance the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development?**

2a: Reflection of social and economic pillars should ensure that there is harmony between the 3 dimensions of SD and should enhance each of the dimensions. This will be achieved by basing results on tested data and coming up with realistic targets based on a predictable budget. The associated capacity needs should also be assessed and fulfilled.

2b: Post-2015 MDGs should be consistent with the principles of SD; MDGs' sub-goals / targets should synergistically address cross-sector (and cross-MDG) SD matters; MDGs and SDGs should ultimately be merged into one new suite of international development goals

The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' (CBDR) must be maintained and addressed within the SDGs as the reality is that levels of development, capacities, technology and resources differ amongst countries. Furthermore, the SD goals should be based on Agenda 21 and JPOI and build upon commitments already made, respect international law and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major Summits in economic, social and environmental fields.

Whilst it's important to drive the economic agenda, it should not be done at the expense of the environment (there should be some level of flexibility in standards set on developed and developing countries).

2c: We can expand on MDG 7 so that it doesn't focus only on the environmental pillar but should also include components of the other 2 pillars of SD.

**Q3. Based on your other experiences with MDGs or other existing goals, what would be the key use of SDGs for your country (select at most two)?**

**Please explain your choices if you would like.**

- 3a- Policies of each country need to be defined because they are the main basis for ensuring an enabling environment for SD.
- 3d: SDGs should assist countries in addressing key national development matters which threaten sustainability and assure the allocation of sufficient resources in national budgets to pursue comprehensive developmental sustainability.

**Q4. How can "universally applicable" SDGs be made practically relevant for countries at different levels of development? (Please refer to your country's situation as appropriate)**

A:

- SDGs would be linked to national agendas by being mainstreamed into National Development Plans and District Development Plans.
- SDGs would require 'translation' into national actions and indicators with more review and measurement contributing to the global SDGs; these activities and their M&E (metrics, indicators) would need to be in line with and supportive of the national agenda (as reflected in policies, plans and budgets).
- SDGs should be progressive i.e. challenging countries to move to higher levels of attainment. It is imperative that SDGs have milestones, targets and indicators.
- There is need for domestication or interpretation of the SDGs according to the Botswana context. To this effect, supportive documents that are written in simple language should address key issues for each SDG

**Q5. The SDGs are supposed to be “global in nature”. Should targets associated with those goals be:**

- a. common to all countries?
- b. defined by each country? or
- c. common but differentiated depending on country characteristics and level of development? if c, please explain how

A: 5c Targets associated with SDGs should be common but differentiated depending on country characteristics and level of development. Most countries have different cultures, economies and policies. As such, it is important that they be given different targets instead of ascribing to prescribed ones. This will ensure that there is no international pressure and ensures that the target will remain relevant to a country for a period of time. Also, this will give rise to the opportunity for developing countries to be able to solicit support in terms of resources (capacity building and capital) from countries which have already achieved a higher level of attainment.

**Q6. Which existing goals and targets (e.g. MDGs, goals/targets in Agenda 21, JPOI) do you think *should* be incorporated –perhaps in updated form- in a proposal for SDGs?**

A: All MDGs are relevant to be upgraded into and form the basis of the SDGs; however, Agenda21 and other relevant internationally agreed targets would need to be incorporated such that the SDGs truly reflect global goals in line with previously agreed commitments relevant to sustainable development.

There is a need to look at the existing MDGs to ensure that we do not re-invent the wheels whilst also reviewing their relevance and applicability.

**Q7. What specific steps can be taken to ensure that the SDGs are coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015?**

A:

- SDGs should be inspired by the values that countries are already subscribing to through various UN frameworks and processes. As such, the development of SDGs should ensure that these goals (SDGs) reinforce existing values, and are embedded in them.
- We need to build on the existing MDGs noting their achievements and constraints to avoid having SDGs fall in the same pitfalls encountered by MDGs.
- The development of SDGs should be linked with the evolution of the post 2015 development agenda to ensure that the two processes inform each other. Thus continuous feedback between SDGs and the post-2015 process is required as both processes evolve. The two tracks need to be aligned to achieve truly SD-based SDGs.
- Update UN development agenda priorities in line with final version of SDGs

- The consultative process needs to be continuous, wide reaching and all inclusive while also recognising the capacity needs at systemic, institutional and individual levels.
- Eventually, we will need to continuously monitor and evaluate progress made.

**Q8. How should assessments of progress toward the achievement of SDGs be carried out at global level?**

A: All countries should agree to a Universal Periodic Review (UPR)-type regular reporting on the implementation of the SDGs, with an embedded peer review mechanism.

Global level assessments should allow for aggregate measures of progress as well as more detailed assessments by regions, country groups, SD dimension etc. This way, it should be possible to assess general progress without losing the differences that exist among countries or groups of countries. This will also influence the way in which data is collected and analysed while enriching the picture that the assessments provide.

**Q9 what measures should be taken to make the process of developing a proposal for SDGs inclusive and participatory? How should civil society and other relevant stakeholders be engaged?**

A: Open-ended Working Group should be representative of standard UN representation and the process should be open to major groups; existing country blocks (EU, AU, SADC etc.) should provide input into the process through their representative countries and secretariats.

**Q10. What principles should underpin the development of the SDGs (the UN TT report, for example recommended adding (i) reducing inequalities and (ii) promoting human rights (iii) ensuring sustainability)?**

A:

- Inclusive, people-centred growth
- Ethical and equitable development
- Reducing poverty and unemployment
- promoting and protecting human rights, dignity and security while respecting cultural diversity
- Inculcating the economic value of natural resources and ecosystems
- Jointly owned by society at large (e.g. the future we want)
- Targets should go beyond minimum level of existence
- Subject to monitoring at the lowest level of society
- Empowering to the most disadvantaged groups
- Developing the human capital
- Gender equality
- Supporting development diversity models for different contexts
- Resilient and responsive to emerging global shocks (climate, economic, wars etc).

**Q11. How should a new Global Partnership for Development be constructed within or around the SDGs?**

A:

- Assuming that SDGs will reflect the aspirations of society, and that sustainability is best achieved when the new global partnership for development is intended to attain those aspirations, the new Global Partnership for Development (GPD) should assume the responsibility to guide and support the implementation of the SDGs as well as putting in place mechanisms for accountability towards their attainment at global and national levels.
- Secondly, governments alone will not be able to implement SDGs in a way that captures all the three ESE dimensions. The involvement of the private sector and civil society is critical. Rather than keeping these players (private sector and civil society) at the periphery of the new GPD, their roles and responsibilities will need to be brought into the mainstream.
- Third, a new GPD needs to recognize that the delivery of SDGs takes place at various levels (local to national). Mechanisms that deliver on SDGs, such as financing mechanisms and the channelling of development finance, need to be designed for a multi-level approach to development. This involves working alongside or supporting development models and approaches being used by specific countries. For example, local economic development is a major route for pursuing development and poverty eradication in several countries, requiring different approaches for financing and tracking such development approaches.
- In essence, the contours of SDG development and implementation need to be reflected in the new global development partnership. This includes the fact that a “one-size-fits-all” architecture should not be adopted.
- Collaboration between developed and developing states in the efforts of states to implement the SDG agenda should be encouraged; establishment of homogenous country groupings such as LDC, MIC and UIC to facilitate achievement of targets for each – operational model/framework to guide processes to be followed by each cohort.

**Q12. Do you have any other observations, ideas or inputs you would like to offer to inform the work of the open working group on sustainable development goals?**

- In most countries, issues of SD are usually driven by Ministries of Environment and this in a way tends to make SD to be biased towards environmental sector. SDGs should ensure that SD moves away from being a solely environmental driven initiative but should be all encompassing.
- The open group that will be set up for this initiative should also be carefully selected to avoid bias, i.e. all the regions of the UN should be represented.
- The process of developing SDGs should provide continuous feedback and updates to stakeholders at the country level, going beyond a one-off input by countries. Countries should be given enough time to make contributions, as the goals are being designed for them.