

## BOTSWANA STATEMENT ON Sanitation: Wastewater Treatment, Recycling and Re-use

Botswana cannot agree more with the statement that “Access to Sanitation is critical to hygiene. Botswana is a dry country dependent highly on groundwater. The protection of this water source from pollution by waste is therefore very critical. In Botswana there are no less than four government agencies involved in sanitation and health.

Mr Chairman, HIV/AIDS has brought some problems for sanitation and waste management in Botswana in two significant ways: first by taking a large chunk of the government budget for interventions to deal with this problem as well as by contributing to increased health risks by way of increased production of healthcare wastes from the new Home Based Care Program designed to ease pressure on the limited healthcare facilities by taking the sick to be taken care of at home where limited facilities for waste disposal exist. Healthcare wastes emanating from this program are a serious issue for concern.

Botswana therefore supports the statements by the panelists and the other African voices for support and assistance especially, but not necessarily limited for the following:

- \* Development, identification and implementation of appropriate and affordable on-site sanitation technologies as well as transfer of efficient and affordable technologies for wastewater treatment

- \*Promotion of early learning at schools on issues of sanitation and hygiene and the provision of appropriate facilities at schools to ensure the development of environmentally acceptable practices at an early age.

Thank you.