

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE MR. SLUMBER TSOGWANE, M.P.
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE PLENARY MEETING
OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)
HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ECOSOC**

17-19 JULY 2017, NEW YORK

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this Plenary Meeting of the High Level Political Forum, which is held under the auspices of ECOSOC.
2. Coming just two years after the adoption, by the UN General Assembly, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the convening of this plenary meeting could not have been more opportune.
3. This is because this Forum affords us the opportunity to inject the much needed political momentum into the implementation of this global agenda.
4. In this regard, my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

5. The right to development is a right for all. We therefore must make every effort to ensure that "no one is left behind" in our pursuit of sustainable development.
6. The reality is that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda raised our people's expectations with respect to addressing challenges of sluggish economic growth, economic diversification, poverty, job creation, women and youth empowerment, to mention but a few.
7. While encouraging progress towards addressing these challenges continues to be made, the international community has yet to account for millions of people the world over, who are still wallowing in abject poverty, and for whom the right to development remains a dream.
8. Urgent action is therefore required at all levels in each country in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

9. We specifically urgently need to take action to unlock the Means of Implementation as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
10. In Botswana, building on the success we achieved in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, we have mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals into our National Development Plan 11 and Vision 2036.
11. In an effort not to leave anyone behind, we have designed our empowerment programmes such that they are inclusive of all the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our society.
12. We have also put in place structures and mechanisms to facilitate effective review, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the respective programmes.
13. In the process, we have also recognised the need for instituting mechanisms to facilitate synergy, information sharing, coordination and collaboration among implementing entities, so as to prevent the silo approach, as such type of approach is counterproductive.

Mr. President,

14. We are pleased that Botswana is among the 44 countries which will be sharing their 2030 Agenda implementation experience, in this Session of the High Level Political Forum, as part of the Voluntary National Review process.
15. Our experience has underscored the importance of tackling the issues of sustainable development in a people-centred, democratic, transparent, participatory and inclusive manner, in order to achieve ownership and accountability in the process.
16. In the process leading to the preparation of our Voluntary National Review report, we had to embark on comprehensive consultations and also conducted awareness raising workshops involving stakeholders at the District and National level.

17. These extensive consultations and workshops facilitated meaningful input from all stakeholders throughout the country.

Mr. President,

18. We have also come to realise that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is contingent on strong and effective partnerships; public-private, civil society partnerships, as well as partnerships with cooperating partners, including the UN system.

19. To this end, the need for reliable and up to date statistical data cannot be over emphasized. This inevitably requires strengthening of the institutional and technical capacity of the national statistics offices.

20. I am delighted to state that our national statistics body, namely, Statistics Botswana, has been extremely effective in timeously producing reliable statistical data in support of our national development planning process.

21. We are also proud that Statistics Botswana was among the national statistics bodies which were co-opted by the UN Statistical Commission to help develop the Indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

22. This speaks volumes about Statistics Botswana's capacity and expertise.

23. In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to re-affirm Botswana's commitment to the effective and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

24. Botswana stands ready to contribute in whatever way it possibly can to the international community's efforts to achieve successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you for your attention.
