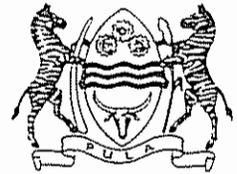


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**HIS HONOUR LIEUTENANT GENERAL MOMPATI S.
MERAFFE, MP.**

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**DURING THE PLENARY OF THE
65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

27th September, 2010

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr Secretary General,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is my singular honour to extend my congratulations to you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Assembly.
2. Your election is a vote of confidence by the international community both in you personally, and also in your esteemed country, Switzerland.
3. I wish to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your onerous responsibilities.
4. My commendation also goes to the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and his staff for their commitment to the advancement of the work of this noble organization.

Mr. President.

5. As Member States, we continue to find refuge in the provisions of the United Nations Charter and have remained with the full assurance that when we are individually faced with insurmountable challenges and difficulties, we draw from the collective strength of the international community.
6. Working together for a common purpose, for the common good is actually the sacredness of this, our grand institution.
In this regard we must all remain steadfast in our partnership on the agenda for poverty eradication, pursuit of international peace and security, combating of disease, promotion of youth empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, personal advancement through education, a better health for all as well as harnessing technology for sustainable development.
7. It is on account of this abiding faith and belief in the viability and primacy of the United Nations that, inspite of our resource limitations, we have over the years faithfully fulfilled our obligations to this organisation.

Mr. President,

8. The deliberations of the recently concluded High Level Plenary meeting on the Review of the Millennium Development Goals, our global blueprint for monitoring universal progress made towards shared development goals, have clearly accentuated our strengths, weakness and vulnerabilities, individually and collectively.
9. For this reason we need to redouble our efforts to accelerate the implementation of the MDGs in the remaining 5 years.

Mr. President.

10. Botswana is classified as an upper middle income country.
11. However, having enjoyed stability and steady economic growth over a sustained period of time, the country still has to contend with a plethora of development challenges, ironically, in an environment of diminished international development assistance and support.
12. The vulnerability of economies such as that of my country became evident during the triple global crises of food, energy and most recently, the world economic and financial meltdown.
13. To this end, we call for continued development assistance for middle income countries, lest their hard earned gains are reversed.

Mr. President,

14. In this era of growing and complex global challenges, the need for a more dynamic and proactive global financial, economic and political architecture is far more apparent now than ever before.
15. More specifically, the recent crises point to an international monetary and financial architecture that needs to be profoundly reformed in order to enhance its early warning capabilities and resistance to external shocks, as well as facilitating the integration of poorer countries in the global economy.

Mr. President,

16. Botswana welcomes the important milestones achieved in the strengthening of the UN's operational activities for development, improvement of funding for development related activities, as well as strengthening the institutional framework for the gender architecture through the creation of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.
17. The creation of this entity constitutes an important step in fulfilling the commitments undertaken at the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, whose main objective was the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

18. Botswana fully supports the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Peace Building Commission (PBC).
19. We believe that the role of the Peace Building Commission should be properly defined by a robust mandate through the amendment of the founding resolutions and the provision of adequate resources in order to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate.
20. On a related subject, we fully concur that disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the promotion of international peace and security.
21. To this end, my delegation welcomes progress made in some areas, but remains deeply concerned that the Conference on Disarmament continues to be deadlocked.
22. I wish to seize this opportunity to re-affirm Botswana's commitment to the objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which we continue to demonstrate through effective implementation of its provisions as well as compliance with the decisions of the successive Review Conferences.
23. Consequently, Botswana associates itself with the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
24. We fully support developing countries' call for the peaceful use of nuclear technology in areas such as agriculture, the environment, water management and medicine.
25. However, those countries which intend to embark upon such use of nuclear technology should do so in a transparent fashion and in full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
26. We therefore call for increased financial support for the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Cooperation Programme as well as in capacity building in order to share technology utilization in the relevant areas.
27. Botswana continues to be deeply concerned about increasing threats to international peace and security.
28. As a peace loving nation, we believe in peaceful resolution of conflicts.
29. It is on account of this strong belief that we condemn, without reservation, any acts of terrorism, including the 9 / 11 terrorist attacks, over which our well known position remains unchanged.
30. My delegation does not believe that the 9/11 attack was orchestrated by the United States of America.

Mr. President,

31. One issue of deep concern to my delegation is the erosion of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in some parts of the world.
32. There is therefore an urgent need for us to reverse this trend especially because it undermines all the efforts we have made to date to launch our countries on a path of peace, stability and sustainable development.
33. To this end, we commend the various civil society organisations which have consistently sounded alarm bells regarding incidents of human rights violations whenever and wherever they occur.

Mr. President,

34. My country is of the view that the International Criminal Court needs to be supported in its efforts to resolve outstanding cases of warrants of arrest which have been issued against all persons indicted for the commission of serious crimes.
35. It is in this context that Botswana remains resolute and steadfast in its support for the work of the International Criminal Court.

36. We welcome the landmark decision of the Rome Statute Review Conference held recently in Kampala, Uganda, to extend the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Court to cover the crime of aggression.
Mr. President,
37. Nowhere is our shared responsibility, as members of the international community, more critical than in protecting and nurturing our shared environment, and our planet, earth.
38. To this end, it is pertinent to point out that climate change has increasingly become one of humanity's most daunting challenges.
39. The devastating natural disasters recently experienced in certain quarters of our globe amply demonstrate our vulnerability as inhabitants of the earth.

40. I wish to seize this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Botswana, and indeed on my own behalf, to express our sympathies and solidarity with all the countries which have been victims of these disasters.
41. We would also like to extend our condolences to all the families of those who lost their loved ones and those whose properties and livelihoods were destroyed.
42. We extend our profound appreciation to the governments as well as private sector and civil society organisations which responded positively to the international humanitarian appeal launched by the United Nations on behalf of these affected countries.
43. In particular we would like to recognize those countries which led the humanitarian interventions.
44. We therefore remain optimistic that the next Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will achieve a successful outcome, which fully addresses the interests and concerns of both developing and developed countries.
45. In conclusion, Mr. President, we pray that this 65th Session of the General Assembly should go down in history as having marked a milestone in efforts aimed at addressing the most pressing global challenges of our time, as well as bringing hope and inspiration to the billions in despair throughout the world.
46. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention.