

**REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA**

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

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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CO-OPERATION AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**MONDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

**1500 HOURS**

**Madam President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates**

1. Let me begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your election to the Presidency of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly. Your election is a demonstration of the trust and confidence reposed in you and your country, the Kingdom of Bahrain by the International community.
2. May I also seize this opportunity to pay tribute to your illustrious predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson of the Kingdom of Sweden, for his sound leadership and achievements during the 60<sup>th</sup> Session.
3. Madam President, let me also commend the Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Kofi A. Annan, for his decade of devoted and selfless service to humanity. This great son of Africa and his visionary leadership of the United Nations has and continues to be the embodiment of our collective aspiration to achieve a more peaceful, just, equitable and prosperous world. He is indeed Africa's great gift to humanity.
4. Madam President, within the next five days, Botswana will mark 40 years of her existence as a democratic, independent and sovereign nation. When the First President of Botswana, the late Sir Seretse Khama, addressed this Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1969, he described Botswana in part as a country, "faced with a problem of under-development of classic proportions".
5. Botswana had to contend with the harsh realities of history and geographical position. We were completely surrounded by oppressive, aggressive and racist white minority regimes. As a small, weak and poor country, we had to begin the process of building national institutions and laying the foundation for social and economic development in a hostile environment.
6. The United Nations and its Member States served as a pillar of strength and gave us political and diplomatic support.
7. Today, we stand here to express our deep gratitude for the support and assistance extended to us over the years. It has been a forty year journey of determined and sustained effort to achieve human-centred development.
8. It is a journey we travelled with development partners across all continents. This has enabled us to achieve some measure of progress in improving the human condition. At 40, we are an adult nation and have assumed full ownership and responsibility for our own development. We have adopted policies, legislation and practices aimed at creating an environment conducive to economic growth and development.
9. Many milestones have been achieved in our national development effort. Today Botswana is a middle income developing country but we still face enormous challenges for which we need assistance.
10. In this regard the decision of the 2005 World Summit should be implemented to ensure that small middle income developing countries such as Botswana do not relapse into the doldrums of poverty and underdevelopment.
11. Madam President, Botswana has been blessed with one of Africa's major natural resources, diamonds. It must be stated that sixty five percent of the world's diamonds, worth US\$8,3 billion per year are sourced from African countries. I am pleased to state that diamonds have and continue

to do good in Botswana. The diamond industry in Botswana has been at the cutting edge of human development and transforming lives for the better, in all fields of human endeavour.

12. We continue to prudently manage the revenue from the sale of diamonds and to effectively use such revenue to educate our people, provide potable water, health care and build a network of infrastructure such as roads, telephones and rural electrification. This is the good that diamonds have and continue to do.

13. As a participant in the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and current Chairman, Botswana is strongly committed to working alongside other participating countries to maintain the credibility of the Scheme and the legitimate diamond trade. The Kimberly Process Certification Scheme is one of the best examples of global co-operation.

14. The Scheme is the embodiment of global consensus, unrelenting political will and determination of members to do the right thing underpinned by strong support and resolutions of the Security Council. This is important because about ten million people globally are either directly or indirectly supported by the diamond industry. In Southern Africa more than twenty eight thousand people are employed by this industry.

15. Madam President, we are also here to reaffirm our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and our strong belief in the Organization as the only vehicle through which enduring peace and prosperity of the human race can be assured. We welcome the opportunity for the nations of the world to meet here annually to exchange views on matters which are central to our common destiny.

16. There are many challenges which we must address. But chief amongst them is that of ending the evil of war. It is deeply regrettable that although the human species left the jungle many many years ago, the jungle still remains in human beings.

17. As a matter of fact, if the beast of the jungle had acquired language it could actually claim some superiority over the human race. Whilst animals may fight and brutally kill each other, they never really spend time planning how to destroy one another or thinking about how to produce weapons of mass destruction.

18. Be that as it may, Madam President, we still have hope and confidence in the human spirit to do good. As human beings, we have a shared destiny and are therefore our own saviours.

19. The responsibility to save the human species from the scourge of war cannot be passed to anyone else. It is for this reason that we consider this august Assembly a rare opportunity for the international community to move beyond platitudes and squarely address the critical challenges of our time.

20. An atmosphere of international peace and security is essential for human development. Experience has repeatedly shown that we cannot realistically hope to pursue a meaningful global development agenda under conditions of war, conflict and insecurity.

21. Conflicts in our world today should therefore be a matter of grave concern to all of us. We made an undertaking in 2000, at the dawn of the New Millennium, that above anything else, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century should be an epoch of peace and prosperity.

22. We consciously made a commitment to reduce by half the number of the global poor by 2015. If we are to achieve this objective, war should be the first casualty.

23. Botswana is particularly concerned about conflicts in Africa. Regrettably, Africa is the only continent that is facing the bleak prospects of failure to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Can we afford to have the resources for war in the midst of poverty, disease, deprivation and underdevelopment? The answer is No!

24. Today, Africa is host to the largest number of refugees, displaced persons, the global poor and people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Yet sadly, we have the lion's share of the world's conflicts. Ending conflicts is therefore as much a calling as it is a moral and political imperative.

25. We should all be concerned about the atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan. The perpetuation of that conflict, in defiance of the collective will of the international community and the Charter of the United Nations is totally unacceptable.

26. Worse still, the gory of daily killings is an affront to the sanctity of human life. This undermines our humanity.

27. We call on all parties to the conflict to comply with and respect the Darfur Peace Agreement. Those who have not signed this Agreement must do so as a matter of urgency. It is only through dialogue and mutual accommodation that durable peace can be attained. War can only beget misery and anarchy.

28. The United Nations has expressed its desire to help, through deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force. In principle, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union has welcomed the decision by the United Nations Security Council.

29. Madam President, every year we come to this podium to call for progress in the Middle East Peace process. For generations that region has known no peace.

30. If there is any lesson to be learnt, it is that the only avenue to a lasting political settlement is through dialogue, accommodation and compromise. It is only in an atmosphere of negotiations that reason and common sense can prevail over extremism and war mongering.

31. Israel and Palestine must coexist as two sovereign states that not only share a border, but a common desire for peace, security and prosperity. We urge the people of the Middle East to summon the courage to recognize the folly of war and accept the virtue of dialogue. They should start building a common future for generations that will know no violence and conflict, but only co-operation and concord.

32. Madam President, my delegation shares the concern about the threat of terrorism. Terrorism pervades every crevice of our world, much to the detriment of humanity. In this respect, we welcome the recent adoption of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy by the United Nations General Assembly.

33. Madam President, when the Doha Ministerial Declaration was adopted in 2001, we had hoped for, and envisaged negotiations lasting three years. We knew then, as we do today, that this was an ambitious and onerous undertaking. Already we have missed several important deadlines.

34. This should be a source of concern for all of us. For many of our people a fair and equitable international trading system is not only a noble objective, but also a development imperative. It holds hope and promise of prosperity and alleviation of poverty. This is all the more reason why we must not allow the Doha Round of Trade negotiations to fall.

35. The indefinite suspension of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations on 24 July 2006 has raised questions about our collective commitment to development. In this respect, the major question before us today is how we can revive the Doha Round of trade negotiations.
36. It took eight years to complete the Uruguay Round. This goes to show that at times it is not how fast the negotiations are concluded but of equal importance is the substance and content of such negotiations. It is clear that we are going to miss the December 2006 deadline which we set for ourselves in 2005.
37. It is therefore our collective responsibility as the United Nations to give the necessary political direction to the WTO, not only to revive the negotiations, but also to ensure the necessary impetus for their timely and successful conclusion. A successful conclusion should address the ever growing special development challenges of developing countries by upholding the development dimension of the Doha Round.
38. Madam President, during the 60<sup>th</sup> Session, a number of key decisions were made as outlined in the 2005 World Summit document. Heads of State and Government established institutions with a view to making the United Nations more effective in carrying out its mandate under the Charter and to serve the Member States better.
39. This Session should be an implementation session. We must commit ourselves to effective implementation! It is important that we demonstrate in deeds, that here at the United Nations, we make statements to communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans. Such ideas are not to remain on paper. They must be translated into programmes and projects for the common good.
40. Botswana strongly supports comprehensive, wide and deep reform of the United Nations. Regarding the ongoing management reform, we welcome the decision of the General Assembly Resolution 60/283 to allow the Secretary General adequate authority to deploy resources and staff from lower to higher priority programmes.
41. We are convinced that as Chief Administrative Officer, the Secretary General should be accorded more leverage to command both human and financial resources so that the Secretariat can deliver more effectively.
42. Member States must recognize the importance of timely and unconditional funding of the mandates entrusted to the Secretary General by the legislative bodies of the Organization. It is incumbent upon the Secretariat to ensure accountability and prudent management of such resources.
43. Enabling the Organization to effectively deliver is a collective responsibility of the Member States and the Secretariat. What is essential is for Member States to ensure that there are efficient oversight bodies to ensure compliance with standing rules and regulations.
44. One of the major successes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session was the implementation of the decision of the World Summit on the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Africa expects the Peacebuilding Commission to effectively discharge its mandate.
45. Madam President, the establishment of the Human Rights Council is also one of the significant achievements of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session. This demonstrates our collective desire to elevate human rights to new heights of prominence and visibility consistent with the changing times. It is our expectation that the new body will operate on the basis of principles of co-operation, genuine interactive dialogue and tolerance coupled with respect for diversity.
46. Issues of development should not be underestimated. In the developing countries, these are real challenges which should not be overlooked. The Council must therefore address issues of

capacity building and find ways of responding to institutional weaknesses and resource limitations which hamper the process of translating constitutional and statutory provisions on human rights into reality.

47. Madam President, let me conclude by reaffirming Botswana's abiding faith in the instrumentality and universality of the United Nations. The United Nations is no one else but ourselves, the Member States, put together. It should be greater than the sum total of all of us.

48. We must therefore have the courage to continue with reforms to strengthen ourselves including the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

49. The reform of the Security Council should not pose difficulties to anyone. We are all responsible for keeping this world safe.

50. It is only when Member States consider their national interests to be an integral part of the wider interests of the international community, that they may not be apprehensive of an enlarged Security Council in both the permanent and non permanent categories.

51. I thank you for your attention.