

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS BY FIRST SECRETARY KATLEGO BOASE MMALANE, ON THE
ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST RESUMED
PART OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 1 March 2021)**

Mr. Chairman

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations on the organization of work of the Fifth Committee for the first resumed part of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly and to congratulate you all for the successful conclusion of the main part of this session. Indeed, the Main Part was conducted under unique circumstances and was for the first time in the history of this August body concluded on New Year's Eve. In spite of the difficulty of the times, you ensured that the Secretary General was given the mandate and tools to deliver on his work.
2. In this regard, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to you and my colleagues in the Bureau for your guidance and leadership of the committee during these unusual times. This pandemic has tested our resolve and compelled us to be innovative with new and temporary working methods and practices, as the chair of the African Group has rightly put it ***"to ensure business continuity of the United Nations Organisation"***.
3. My delegation also gives credit to the invaluable work of the Secretariat of the Committee led by the able Mr. Lionel Berridge. Sir, we appreciate you and your team's hardwork.

Mr. Chairman

4. Let me take this opportunity to indicate that my delegation aligns its statement with those just delivered by the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group respectively.
5. Looking at the Programme of work and the many reports before us let me commend Ms Catherine Pollard, Under Secretary General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and her team for working towards ensuring the release of many of the reports on time as it has given us the opportunity to go through them properly.
6. I also take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and his team and commend them too for their timely release of reports and their effort in providing technical and impartial advice to the Committee on the important matters before us.

Mr. Chair,

7. During the next four weeks, Member States will have to consider a number of reports, most importantly Human Resource Management, as per the decisions made by the

United Nations General Assembly. Despite the heavy workload that the Committee faces in the coming weeks, my delegation assures you of our readiness to engage constructively during the course of deliberations. We look forward to a frank and productive discussion with all delegations during this Session, and affirm our commitment to working with all to ensure the successful conclusion of the work before us.

8. Regarding specific issues that will be examined by the Committee during this session, my delegation attaches great importance to the Human Resources Management. Botswana's long standing position has been the call for equitable geographical representation at all levels, refining performance management and addressing deficiencies in the staff selection processes. My delegation further calls for more innovative methods in ensuring that all 193 Members of this Organisation are represented in the composition of the United Nations workforce especially the unrepresented and under-represented Member States. My delegation will therefore continue to support and call for the efficient management of proposed programmes such as the Young Professionals Programme (YPP); the Junior Professionals Programme (JPO); United Nations Volunteers (UNV's) and the UN Internship programme.
9. Another key priority for my delegation is the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and their programme of work for 2021. **Mr. Chairman**, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) is the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations and thereby acts as an agent for change across the United Nations system. My delegation will therefore actively participate in the Committee's deliberations on this important agenda item especially the level of implementation of accepted recommendations by the Secretariat.
10. Furthermore, my delegation will actively participate in the Committee's deliberations on, among others, Revised estimates for the Human Rights Council; Subvention for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the United Nations Common system; construction and property management i.e. UNON Conference facilities and progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat. The promotion of a culture of accountability is key to guarantee a more prudent, effective and competent workforce that is driven by integrity and service to humanity.
11. In closing, **Mr. Chairman**, let me reaffirm the commitment of my delegation in working with all delegations in an open and constructive dialogue on all these important agenda items so as to achieve a positive outcome for the administrative operations of the United Nations Organisation system.

I thank You