

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY FIRST SECRETARY KATLEGO BOASE
MMALANE ON THE ORGANISATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE, DURING THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY
FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)**

(New York, 3 May 2021)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations at this opening session of the second resumed part of the Seventy Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. As a fellow Bureau Member, let me at the outset take this opportunity and join other delegations in congratulating you and the rest of the Bureau for your able leadership, throughout the 75th session. You have been innovative and strategic in your handling of the affairs of the Fifth committee and have enabled the committee to execute its mandate during these unique and unprecedented times.
3. My delegation wishes to further extend its profound gratitude to the Fifth Committee Secretariat led by Mr. Lionelito Berridge, and recognizes the presence of the Assistant Secretary General and controller Chandramouli Ramanathan, and his team and of course the Chair of ACABQ, Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong and his hardworking team for the support rendered during this time.

Mr. Chair,

4. Our delegation fully aligns itself with the statements just delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China by H.E Ambassador Issimail Chanfi, Permanent Representative of the Union of Comoros to United Nations and Mrs. Masseni Kaba Saleh, of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations respectively. We however wish to take this opportunity to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.
5. Starting off with the Programme of work and the status of preparedness of documentation, my delegation would like to applaud the Secretariat and the ACABQ, for the timeliness in ensuring that the majority of reports are

accessible. As you may recall this has been a major request of the General Assembly for a long time now.

- 6.** The timely publication of reports will enable us to effectively interrogate the \$6.4 billion peacekeeping budget request by the Secretary General. My delegation looks forward to discussing the various agenda items and issues particularly the following:
 - i.** Crosscutting issues including measures taken to ensure the safety and well-being of peacekeeping personnel as well as any support rendered to host countries, where possible, in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - ii.** Procurement matters;
 - iii.** The increasing number of long vacant posts, their impact on critical functions in peacekeeping missions and we wish to further appreciate why they have not been filled expeditiously as long requested by the General Assembly.
 - iv.** Also important for my delegation is to get an appreciation of the impact of Programmatic activities and Quick Impact Projects on Mission mandate delivery. For a long time, these two initiatives have been hailed for helping to save lives and helping the Organisation gain trust among local populations, thereby preventing and resolving conflicts. My delegation would therefore like to discuss this further and appreciate their level of impact.
 - v.** Lastly, as continuously reiterated by the Group of 77 and China as well as the Africa Group with regard to the important role played by regional and sub-regional actors in peacekeeping operations, my delegation looks forward to getting an appreciation of the request by the General Assembly on efforts by the Secretary-General to deepen the Organisation's partnership, cooperation and coordination with regional and sub-regional entities in accordance with relevant mandates.

- 7.** My delegation places great interest in seeing the UN and its regional and sub-regional entities engage in partnerships on the most pressing Peace and security issues especially in the African continent. It only makes sense for the UN to work hand in hand with these Organisations to avoid duplication of efforts, but maximize on the gains.

- 8.** With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, we applaud the Secretary General's efforts responding to the challenges and ensuring business continuity for the Secretariat, intergovernmental processes, and obligations in the field. We

hope that lessons learnt are being adequately captured, to inform any further improvements of the systems in place. My delegation will during the informal discussions seek to appreciate collaborative efforts and partnerships including with UN Agencies and programmes, established by the Secretariat in tackling this pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

9. My delegation has taken note of the recommendations and observations made by the different bodies that report to the Fifth Committee including the ACABQ, JIU, OIOS and the Board of Auditors and will seek further clarity on the issues they have raised.
10. In closing, allow me to commend and thank my fellow delegates of the Fifth Committee for their constructive engagement and flexibility throughout the 75th session. This is the second time we are “negotiating the United Nations Peacekeeping Budget while at home.” We therefore as usual, look forward to negotiating in good faith.
11. We wish to reassure, you **Mr. Chair**, that our delegation recognises and supports the importance of conducting and delivering on the United Nations Peacekeeping Budget expeditiously and within the given timeframe. As usual, we express our readiness to engage constructively with all delegations with a view to concluding deliberations in a timely manner.

I thank you for your kind attention.

