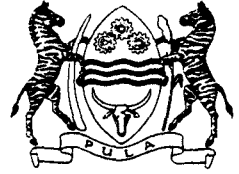


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

**MR. NKOLOI NKOLOI
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE
SIXTH COMMITTEE
DISCUSSIONS ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 85: "THE RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

16 OCTOBER 2015, NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Congratulations to you and your Bureau on your election to guide the affairs of this Committee.
2. We align ourselves with the statements read by South Africa on behalf of the Africa Group and Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
3. Today's agenda item, takes place at a time when the international community celebrates 70 years of the establishment of the United Nations.
4. It is also 70 years since the end of the 2nd World War, a war which claimed millions of people while bringing ruin and destruction to nations, big and small.
5. Having become a member of the United Nations in 1966, my nation, Botswana, is proud to work and cooperate with the world community of nations to contribute to development, peace and global security.
6. As a young democracy whose foundations are deeply rooted in the promotion and protection of human rights, Botswana believes that the UN Charter provides a set of international standards and norms to conduct relations between States.
7. In this respect, we welcome and support the Secretary-General's call to Member States to cooperate with existing international mechanisms established for the sustenance of rule of law.
8. The rule of law requires that representatives of the people should be accountable to the people. This accountability should be clearly defined in the law. It must also provide remedies in cases of breach.

9. Respect of the rule of law is therefore an essential condition for peace, security, prevention of conflict, conflict resolution as well as post conflict reconstruction.

10. So, it can be said that rule of law places obligations on both the state and the citizens, including civil society, to observe, respect, and most importantly, take ownership or have a stake in the legal order.

11. These general observations on the rule of law are equally applicable at the international level, where relations between states should be based on a clearly defined framework as set out in the United Nations Charter and the observance of international law.

12. Alignment between the national and international law is therefore critical.

13. My delegation believes that rule of law and accountable governance are core foundations of societies, big or small, and must be promoted by the international community to bring peace to the world.

14. My delegation is of the view that, social and economic growth and sustainable development are closely linked to, and interdependent with the rule of law and human rights. Economic development should not be seen only as a goal of countries or governments but also as a right to which citizens are entitled.

15. We believe that the UN is the only universal multilateral framework within which nation states can co-exist and promote global justice.

Mr. Chairman,

16. Only 3 weeks ago, our Heads of State and Government launched the new development framework based on sustainable development goals. We welcome Goal 6 which places a high premium on the rule of law as a pre-condition for sustainable development.

17. In reaffirming the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human as well as other instruments relating to human rights and international law, we believe it is the responsibility of all States to respect, protect and promote human rights for all.

18. We believe that for sustainable development to be realized, nations must build inclusive, effective and accountable institutions based the on rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

19. We affirm our conviction that the rule of law is a critical value to every nation that prides itself with democratic norms and ideals.

20. The rule of law must place as a primary focus, the interests and welfare of citizens without distinction to race, colour, sex, language, religion and political opinion.

21. In this respect, it is also our conviction that those who govern and those who are governed, must be subjected to the same laws.

22. It is for this reason that we have become parties to various international instruments which are aimed at strengthening the international justice architecture.

23. To this end, we re-affirm our commitment to supporting the International Criminal Court as well as other Tribunals to close the impunity gap and place responsibility on States to protect rights of their citizens.

24. I thank you for your attention.
