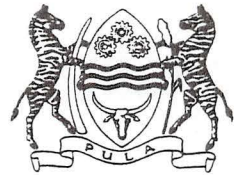


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

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 84: "THE RULE OF LAW AT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

06 OCTOBER 2016, NEW YORK

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Mr. Chairman,

1. We congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to steer the activities of this Committee.
2. Seventy-one years ago when the international community decided that they had had enough of tyranny, genocide, anti-semitism and racism, they found solace in multilateral diplomacy.
3. For most nations, who were reeling from the shock of the two brutal wars, the establishment of the United Nations provided an incentive for nations to live in harmony and to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.
4. The UN therefore became the centerpiece for the promotion of relations between states, the protection of human rights, the development of the socio-economic and social fiber of the world as well as the signing of treaties between states.
5. To that end, nations placed hope on the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which even today is as relevant as it was when it was framed.
6. With its three pillars of: human rights, development, peace and security, the United Nations remains the only universally accepted multilateral agreement to rid the world of "the scourge of war, which twice brought untold sorrow to mankind".
7. My own nation, Botswana, which joined the UN in 1966, remains proud to be a part of the UN family of nations to promote social progress, better standards of living of our people, bring justice to our citizens, and re-affirm our faith in the fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person.

8. As a young democracy, we have come a long, thanks to the support and generosity of all those who helped us grow and prosper as a nation.

9. In welcoming the Secretary-General's annual report on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (document A/71/169), we look behind at the many hurdles we have faced, the many rivers we have crossed and the desire of the world to place sustainable development at the core of our national development.

10. Having just celebrated our 50th Anniversary of Independence just five days ago (on 30 September 2016), we are acutely aware that to have reached this milestone, we had to cultivate and deepen a culture of democracy, the belief in strong, accountable and transparent institutions, and not strong men.

11. We are proud of our modest achievements of being among the most consistent, peaceful and progressive democracies in Africa, having gone to multi-party elections every five years without interference since day one of our independence.

12. We therefore feel that we have a story to tell, lessons to learn, experiences to share and a tradition to behold.

13. We reaffirm our conviction that the rule of law is essential for sustainable development just as democracy cannot exist without peace.

14. As Botswana, we reiterate our respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of conflicts, the sovereign equality of nations and the prohibition of the threat or use of force.

15. We welcome and support the work of the International Law Commission as it continues to codify international law.

16. We equally welcome the United Nations programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law at national and international levels.

17. To that end, we support the exchange of national practices of States in the application of multilateral treaties including the conduct of regional seminars to promote the understanding of international law.

18. For us as a nation, the rule of law must place as a primary focus, the interests and welfare of citizens without distinction to race, colour, sex, language, religion or political opinion.

19. Because the rule of law determines relationships between nations, the rule of law also determines relationships between the people's representatives and the people.

20. The rule of law is therefore a hinge upon which nations must be built, otherwise there is anarchy. The rule of law is a sine qua non for development, peace, prosperity and mutual existence.

21. This is why as a state party to many multilateral treaties, we have a passion and a desire to contribute to a strong international justice system as a catalyst for sustained peace, prosperity, development and social growth.

22. Having learnt from lessons of the past, we remain a non-racial society and a peace-loving nation that supports the principle of self-determination of all peoples that are still under colonial rule and foreign occupation.

23. Because the rule of law and the promotion of human rights are a part and parcel of our lifestyle, we remain unshaken and unequivocal in our support for victims of atrocities, crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

24. It is by no chance therefore that we are an active, friend and supporter of the ICC, the only permanent court of last resort to fight against impunity.

25. Our choice to support strong international legal frameworks including all international tribunals is borne out of a conscience that those who commit international crimes of grave concern must be held accountable irrespective of their power, influence or status. Just as we believe in sovereign equality of nations, so should we respect the equality of all persons before the law.

26. As a member of this body which preaches peace and justice, we remain open and willing to share experiences with all actors involved in shaping the international peace architecture without compromising the nation we are and the values we share.

27. We support all initiatives to promote the rule of law at national, regional and international levels.

I thank you for your attention.
