



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REMOTE AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**RESPONSES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTEENTH
SESSION OF PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

6. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes immediately engage in a consultative process focused on the full and effective implementation of the outcome document at the local, national, regional and international levels. It also recommends that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs outline and provide his vision of a procedure to guarantee the direct participation of representatives of indigenous peoples, including the expert members of the Forum, in the preparation and coordination of the system-wide action plan, with the objective of promoting and protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples and to enhance and increase the coherence of the activities of the United Nations system in that regard. The Forum invites the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to inform the Forum on the progress at its fifteenth session.

Response: Government is guiding implementation of a ten (10) year Affirmative Action Framework which was adopted after consultations with Remote Area Communities (RACs), during the review of the Remote Area Development Programme (RADP). The strategy was enacted in 2009, to address poverty reduction in RACs.

8. The Permanent Forum welcomes the interest expressed at the interactive dialogue on the follow-up to the World Conference held by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 22 April 2015, in which States and indigenous peoples stressed the importance of repatriating ceremonial objects and human remains. The Forum therefore recommends that States and indigenous peoples establish a working group to prepare a manual of good practice with regard to the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations entities, and submit a progress report to the Forum at its fifteenth session.

Response: N/A

10. The Permanent Forum requests that States incorporate commitments made in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples into the development of the post-2015 development agenda, especially the action points on data disaggregation, land rights, traditional knowledge, the implementation of free, prior and informed consent and access to justice presented by indigenous speakers in the thematic panels during the high-level stocktaking event, and reaffirm their commitments to indigenous peoples in the political declaration of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, with the following paragraph:

We affirm that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, based on their security, of their lands, territories and resources. We commit ourselves to ensuring equal access to high-quality education that recognizes the diversity of the cultures of indigenous peoples, and to health, housing, water, sanitation and other economic and social programmes to improve their well-being, including through initiatives, policies and the provision of resources. We intend to empower indigenous peoples, including women, to deliver such programmes and commit

ourselves to working with indigenous peoples to disaggregate data on indigenous peoples' development and well-being.

Response:

Government involves people in remote area Communities to participate in their own development through continuous dialogue between Government and remote area communities.

-Community Development strategies are employed to assist communities to participate in their own sustainable development

-Indigenous Knowledge Systems is a concept that Government has adopted as it is widespread and practiced in Botswana in different areas including healing, Culture, arable farming, livestock rearing, handy – crafts, hunting and tracking etc.

-The Government in recognising the wealth of Indigenous Knowledge among remote area communities and is in the process of developing the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy.

In Botswana there is free basic education from primary to secondary education

-Paid up tertiary education

-Provision of amenities for remote area pupils/ students

-Tuition provided by Government

-Feeding

-Transport

-School Uniform

-Allowances

The Government of Botswana has a specific policy for Remote Area Communities being the RADP Policy -2009 and the RADP Affirmative Action Framework 2014 which specifically addresses issues of people in remote area settlements including the women.

-There is the Department of Gender Affairs under the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs which addresses Gender issues and Mainstreaming gender in all developmental policies and programmes. There are specific programmes targeting women empowerment

13. The Permanent Forum urges States to recognize that suicidal behaviour, suicide and self-harm are directly related to the social and economic situation of indigenous peoples in specific countries and primarily linked to loss of self-identification and departure from the roots of traditional culture and ways of life. This, in turn, is linked to the loss by indigenous peoples of their rights to their lands and territories, natural resources, traditional ways of life and traditional uses of natural resources.

Response:0

Botswana has particular focus on laws and programmes to address children and youth in the country.

Programmes and policies in place are:

1) Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) Affirmative Action Framework-2013

It is a deliberate effort by Botswana Government to mainstream RADP in all sectors and policies. Each sector has to have an initiative to reach out to people in remote area communities.

2) Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) 2009: This is a specific policy for remote area communities

3)Children's Act-2009: It addresses Children's issues and a specific Department of Social Protection in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is in charge of Child protection in the country

4) National Youth Policy 2012: It addresses youth issues

There is also a specific Department dealing with Youth Affairs in the Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture

18. The Permanent Forum urges all States to substantially increase the human and financial resources made available to all indigenous communities and schools to prevent self-harm and suicide among young people, and for holistic treatment based on cultural, spiritual and linguistic revitalization, providing healthy and positive lifestyle choices and access to traditional methods of counselling based on accurate and reliable data.

Response:

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22. Consistent with article 10 of the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and human rights institutions to consider examining, in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other mandate holders, the forced relocation of indigenous communities.

Response:

N/A

28. The Permanent Forum encourages Member States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to develop social policies that will enhance the production of indigenous peoples' traditional foods and promote the restoration or recovery of lost drought-resistant indigenous food varieties to ensure food security. In this context, the Forum recommends that Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, as well as United Nations agencies such as FAO, IFAD and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, establish a committee, in full consultation with and with the participation of indigenous peoples, aimed at preventing food crises in the sub-Saharan region where indigenous peoples reside. The committee's objective should be to prevent humanitarian disasters and, in particular, to prevent starvation at the same level as the disaster that struck the region in 1973.

Response: N/A

29. The Permanent Forum, bearing in mind the importance of the right of indigenous peoples to food sovereignty and security, invites Member States to consider the possibility of announcing an international year of camelids with the aim of drawing attention to the management of lands, territories and resources and for the breeding of camelids.

Response:

Government assistance is provided and extended to subsistence agriculture, and support through social safety nets to sustain RACs foods sovereignty and security. Poverty Eradication Programmes are also implemented sectorally, through economic empowerment projects, targeting RACs for sustainable livelihoods.

31. As a matter of indigenous human rights and consistent with article 18 of the United Nations Declaration, previous Permanent Forum recommendations and the outcome document of the World Conference, with particular consideration of paragraph 33, the right to participate in decision-making is highly relevant to fast approaching and pivotal multilateral negotiations. In this regard, the Forum urgently requests all States, United Nations agencies and high-level representatives of the United Nations system to ensure the direct participation of indigenous peoples in the multilateral negotiations referred to below. The Forum also requests that all those actors advocate and ensure that there is explicit reference to indigenous peoples and their distinct human rights and status throughout the processes relating to:

- (a) The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015;
- (b) The high-level event on climate change, to be held in New York on 29 June 2015, and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015;
- (c) The third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

Response:

*Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) Affirmative Action Framework-2013
It is a deliberate effort by Botswana Government to mainstream RADP in all sectors of development, through active participation and decision making.*

32. The Permanent Forum also requests that States and United Nations agencies engaging in those events ensure strong linkages with the outcome document of the World Conference, with particular consideration of paragraph 33, and indigenous participation.

Response:

The government of Botswana is committed to upholding the human rights of all its citizens, including human rights of vulnerable groups; women, people with disability, youth and RACs.

33. The Permanent Forum reminds States that the implementation of the United Nations Declaration provides a common framework for reconciliation, justice, healing and peace. Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law. Furthermore, all forms of discrimination must be avoided.

Response:

The government of Botswana has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights, towards all its citizens.

35. The Permanent Forum highlights that unprincipled positions and actions of States undermine indigenous peoples' human rights and the United Nations Declaration and that such conduct prejudices indigenous peoples globally and serves to weaken the international human rights system. States must therefore take steps, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that their commitments and obligations are not violated in other international forums, especially following the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In accordance with both the outcome document of the World Conference and the United Nations Declaration, States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, should develop legislation and mechanisms at the national level to ensure that laws are consistent with the United Nations Declaration.

Response:

The principle is same as above, (33).

36. The Permanent Forum is concerned that legal obligations and commitments and indigenous peoples' treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States are routinely denied and violated by States. With regard to interventions by indigenous peoples on unresolved land rights, including the Six Nations of the Grand River and others on which the Forum has made specific recommendations in the past, the Forum calls upon States to fairly and equitably redress the longstanding unresolved land rights issues through good-faith negotiations, consistent with the United Nations Declaration and without extinguishing indigenous peoples' land rights.

Response:

The Government of Botswana has a specific policy for Remote Area Communities being the RADP Policy – 2009 and the RADP Affirmative Action Framework 2014 which specifically addresses issues of people in remote area settlements including the women.

40. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States actively engage with their indigenous peoples in both developed countries and developing countries, including indigenous women, indigenous youth and indigenous persons with disabilities, in developing key indicators on indigenous peoples, including for data disaggregation, to be included in the overall indicators for the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted in March 2016.

Response:

The RACs are actively engaged in all developments affecting their territories and other human rights, and mainstreaming is done for all vulnerable groups to also actively participate in own development.

41. The Permanent Forum calls upon States to recognize indigenous peoples, where they exist, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration, in their legislation in order to gather statistical data thereon, especially in the area of allocation of land and other natural resources for traditional use.

Response:

There are currently sixty – nine gazzetted 69 settlements for RACS. The RACs have been engaged in all their recognised territorial settlements. The issues of land allocation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources is key to improved livelihoods.