

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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ON AGENDA ITEM 4:

**"STRENGTHENING THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE BASE FOR THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA"**

**DURING THE
49th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

**12 April 2016
NEW YORK**

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Madam Chair,

1. Allow me at the very outset to join others in congratulating you and other members of the bureau on your election to the Bureau of the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).
2. The Botswana delegation has every confidence in your ability to steer the deliberations of the Commission to a successful close and we wish to assure you of our full support and cooperation during the week-long proceedings.
3. The Commission is meeting for the first time after the historic adoption of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, by world leaders.
4. It also follows the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in July and December 2015 respectively, where again, Governments committed to take bold and robust action to address a range of economic, social and environmental challenges, through innovative financing mechanisms and limiting the change in climatic conditions.
5. These global endeavours, amongst others, represent our collective commitment to the realisation of the "Future We Want", a future we are truly confident can be delivered by the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
6. The 49th Session of the CPD therefore places an onerous duty on all of us to ensure that the outcomes we adopt at the end of the week, set us on the right path to sustainable growth and development.

Madam Chair,

7. Botswana welcomes this year's theme of '**Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post 2015 development agenda**'. The theme underscores the importance of integrating population dynamics into the global development framework for the next fifteen years. It is only when we appreciate different components of the population such as its composition in terms of

size, sex and age structure as well as distribution that we can better serve our people.

8. Botswana continues to make progress in the fight against poverty; promotion and protection of fundamental human rights; provision of sexual reproductive health services; creation of employment and protection of the physical environment including water and energy sources.
9. These elements will continue to form the basis of our country's development agenda in the period beyond 2015 as they remain relevant to the people's needs. The challenge, however, is availability of sectoral and programme-focused data and statistics, which inform national planning processes.

Madam Chair,

10. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls upon countries to overhaul their policies and programmes in order to leave no one behind. Our country is pursuing this vision through the Revised National population Policy; Poverty Eradication Strategy; SRH framework; Botswana National Statistics Development Strategy; National M&E Strategy and the Botswana Vision 2036.
11. Botswana conducts Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) after every 10 years to collect information on the profile of its inhabitants to inform planning and policy formulation. In addition, the country conducts periodic intercensal surveys to update information obtained from the PHCs.
12. The census along with the intercensal household surveys provide disaggregated information to facilitate planning and decision making at the lowest geographic locations by gender and other important parameters. However, the Vital Registration system faces capacity challenges in analyzing data and producing indicators between censuses and surveys.
13. In the light of these challenges, Botswana has introduced the National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES). In addition, the

country has adopted a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics to strengthen institutional capacity to generate, analyze and disseminate information.

14. The gaps identified above create an opportunity for Botswana to further improve data generation and innovative approaches to their usage such as the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing for data collection and analysis. This approach significantly reduces the turnaround time between data collection and production of reports. Partnerships with research institutions, universities and civil societies would also facilitate the data revolution.

Madam Chair,

15. Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action requires support to effectively monitor identified gaps and shortfalls for each of the pillars. Botswana has dedicated efforts to the protection of women, adolescents, youth and children, older persons, rural communities and people living with disabilities against abuse, exploitation and violence.
16. We are cognizant of the fact that attainment of the Programme of Action beyond 2014, and the 2030 Agenda will depend largely on the data that will be generated by States to continuously improve implementation.
17. The generation of data from regular surveys to better track economic and social indicators would afford us the opportunity to produce disaggregated data at national and district level to inform decision making and service provision.
18. In conclusion, Madam Chair, Botswana reaffirms her commitment to improving data generation for development and to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of a Action as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you