



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

SPEAKING NOTES

BY

**HON. PHANDU T.C. SKELEMANI P.H.
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION
AND
PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

22 SEPTEMBER 2011, NEW YORK

Chairperson,

1. The 10th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is a historic occasion, as it gives us opportunity to reaffirm and celebrate the achievements made since the 2001 World Conference. The theme of this anniversary **“victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: recognition, justice and development”** cannot be more appropriate.
2. This anniversary coincides with the **“Year of the People of African Decent”** declared by the UN General Assembly in December 2009. Therefore the commemoration of both events should galvanize all humanity to step up efforts to prevent and fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and prejudices wherever they are manifested.
3. The 2001 Durban World Conference and its 2009 Review Conference represent our common ideals and values. They equally reaffirm the international community’s commitment and resolve to put an end to all these evils.

Chairperson,

4. As Botswana, we abhor racism in all its forms and manifestations and are committed to the protection and respect for human rights as well as the promotion of peace, harmony and tolerance amongst our people.
5. Botswana through her National Vision 2016 is committed to achieve a moral and tolerant nation which is compassionate, just and caring. It is therefore our believe that the achievement of these pillars will go a long way in advancing our efforts to rid humanity of these social vices as well as promote the rights of the victims.
6. Botswana is convinced that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is the cornerstone of the United Nation’s programme to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related prejudices. We therefore pledge our commitment to the implementation of this programme of action.
7. As a member of the Human Rights Council as well as a State Party to several key international instruments on human rights, such as the

Convention on the Elimination of the Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Botswana continues to cooperate with United Nations human rights system to uphold human rights.

8. Botswana acknowledges the important role played by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. The same recognition extends to all other relevant special procedures and mechanisms in the fight against all forms discrimination.

Chairperson,

9. Although some progress has been recorded in the past ten years, a lot remains to be done in the implementation of the DDPA, more importantly the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.
10. Botswana welcomes the United Nations' continued assistance to Member States in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. I therefore wish to express my country's gratitude to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for this support.
11. In conclusion, Mr. President I wish to reaffirm Botswana's full commitment to the aspirations of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the need to address the plight of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances.
12. I thank you Chairperson.