

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY FIRST SECRETARY, KATLEGO BOASE  
MMALANE, ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH  
COMMITTEE FOR THE MAIN PART OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(New York, 5 August 2020)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations on the organization of work of the Fifth Committee for the main part of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. Let me first start by congratulating H.E Ambassador Carlos Amorín, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations for his appointment as the Chair of the Fifth Committee, and in the same vein, extend my congratulations to all my fellow colleagues in the Bureau, namely; Mr. Terrence Teo of Singapore; Mr. Jakub Chmielewski of Poland; Ayse Crabtree of Turkey, upon their successful appointments.
3. As a Vice-Chair to the Fifth Committee Bureau, Botswana is proud to work alongside you all, and it is in this regard that my delegation takes this opportunity to re-assure you Mr. Chair and the rest of the Bureau of our commitment to supporting you in fulfilling your obligations in an efficient and effective manner.
4. Let me also take the opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for the excellent work done under the guidance and stewardship of Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations and his Bureau.
5. We also thank the Fifth Committee Secretariat, comprising of Mr. Lionel Berridge and his team for their hardwork and support in enabling us to be here today. The same goes to the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Mr. Abdallah

Bachar Bong, and his team for their invaluable support and assistance to our work.

6. Allow me to also note that my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the African Group just delivered by the Chair of the Group Mr. Mohamed Traore, Counsellor of the Republic of Mali and the comments and remarks expressed by Megayla Austin, Minister Counsellor of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the UN on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. With that I would like to make a few additional remarks.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. My delegation is aware of the unprecedented challenges we have faced in the last 7 months and that the same working arrangements including virtual meetings lie ahead for the Fifth Committee. Nonetheless, we wish to draw all to the ethos of this great Organisation and the pillars of Multilateralism upon which it was founded.
8. Therefore, it is important that we try by all means to ensure that we accommodate all the 193 Members of the United Nations as we engage in formal, informal meetings and discussions of the Committee, and this has always been achieved by ensuring that interpretation of the six (6) official languages of the UN are available at all times.
9. Cognizant to the work before us, Mr. Chair, my delegation will be actively engaged in the deliberations of this Main session both on the Programme Plan and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2021, especially on the *development Account; Global Communications; Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs; Economic and Social Development in Africa; Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; International Drug Control, Crime and terrorism prevention and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, just to mention but a few.*
10. My delegation will also take keen interest in the discussions on Special Political Missions (SPM's); the review of the implementation of the peace and security pillar reform, review of the implementation of the management paradigm; Construction and Property Management,

Administration of Justice (AOJ); revised estimates on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) and the scales of assessments particularly Article 19 of the United Nations Charter.

- 11.** Mr. Chairman, as you would have noticed, the Fifth Committee tends to start the Main session earlier than most committees, to enable it to expedite decisions on the scale of assessments that will grant exemptions under Article 19 of the Charter to countries which have not been able to fulfil their financial obligations to the Organization due to unforeseen circumstances. We therefore hope this decision can be expedited on time and accordingly.
- 12.** In closing Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to sympathize with those that have lost their loved ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to express our sincerest gratitude to the Organisation, its departments and officers both here at Headquarters and in the field for their sterling work in supporting the 193 Member States of the Organisation during these difficult times.
- 13.** Furthermore, be assured your Excellency of my delegation's readiness to engage constructively with both the Bureau and our partners in achieving a positive and successful outcome of all agenda items under consideration in a timely manner.

**I thank you**

