

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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FIRST SECRETARY

**ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 138 “PROPOSED PROGRAMME
BUDGET FOR 2022” DURING THE MAIN SESSION
OF THE SEVENTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY’S FIFTH
COMMITTEE (UNGA-5TH)**

(New York, 13 OCTOBER 2021)

Mr. Chair,

1. As this is the first time am taking the floor, let me start by congratulating you and your Bureau in taking over the reins of the Fifth Committee.
2. We join other delegations in thanking Secretary General Gutteres, for spearheading the introduction of this important agenda item reflected under 138 **“Proposed Programme Budget for 2022”**
3. We also thank the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC), the Joint Inspection Unit for their reports. Last but not least we also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for the introduction of his report and the useful analysis, observations, and recommendations he has just outlined as per document A/76/7.

Mr. Chair,

4. Our delegation fully aligns itself with the statements just delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the African group by the representatives of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations, respectively. We however wish to take this opportunity to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.
5. As reiterated by many the programme budget is one of the most important agenda items under consideration during this session, and serves as the resource base for the United Nations to fulfill its role and execute its legislated mandates through the Secretary General.
6. Having just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development six years ago, we can all appreciate that we are less than a decade away from our target date of 2030, and still much requires to be achieved, if we are to create a Better Fairer World By 2030 and ensure that no one is left behind.
7. This is the reason, my delegation is very much concerned that the budget proposal for 2022, is not only less than funds appropriated in 2021, but contains cuts to bodies that are integral to the development pillar, in particular the Regional Commissions, and related Secretariat departments.

8. As the Secretary General himself has stressed, this budget is very much needed to support Member States in this critical moment of humankind. From the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crises issues of humanitarian and development affairs, peace-building and sustaining peace to protracted and longstanding challenges such as poverty and hunger.
9. To attain such, my delegation has always believed that a budget, that is sound and equitable to the challenges and developmental needs at hand is what is required, not one that sustains the status quo.

Mr. Chair,

10. Among many priorities of this August body, the development of Africa is amongst the 8 listed priorities of the United Nations, therefore having just listened to the statement of Ghana on behalf of Africa my delegation would be very much interested in appreciating the Secretary General's efforts and plans for Africa at both regional and sub-regional level, as expressed by Member States when adopting the previous budget for 2021 in December last year.
11. As the Organisation continues to implement its three core reforms being the Peace and Security Pillar reform; the United Nations Management reform and the United Nations Development system, my delegation will be interested in getting an appreciation of how the reforms especially through the departments and offices of DGC, OSAA, DESA, ECA, UNOICT, UN-Habitat, UNEP and OHRLLS have contributed to increasing greater collaboration and coordination between the United Nations the African Union and its 5 sub-regional Organisations with the ultimate purpose of delivering on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
12. As listed under the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation launched in June 2020, my delegation will be interested in discussing further on how the Organisation has and continues to support Africa in its quest for digital transformation and a knowledge based economy.
13. The development of the most vulnerable countries, LLDC's, LLDC's and SIDS is also a crucial and important developmental issue. Furthermore my delegation will appreciate to get an understanding on the utilization of the development Account and its Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC).

14. Increased coordination and collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations so as to achieve more with less is therefore crucial for the UN if we are to see progress since the UN, the African Union and the 5 sub-regional organizations all have the same goals towards attaining the 2030 Agenda.

15. Let me in conclusion Mr. Chair state that, the world has been ravaged by a pandemic that has put our collective abilities to the test, including those of our economies, to deal with its challenges and ensure these economies stand the test of time we must ensure that we have the right budget so as to ***“build back better”***.

I thank you for your kind attention.

