



UN-OHRLLS

Statement by

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**Training Workshop for Developing successful Public-Private Partnerships
(PPPs) for increased transport connectivity in Botswana**

Virtual

11-12 October 2021

Time Zones: Gaborone 09:00hrs; New York 03:00hrs

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for participating in this two-day training workshop on developing successful Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for increased transport connectivity in Botswana. From the programme, I see that it was quite an insightful workshop I believe you have acquired or enhanced your knowledge on how to develop, negotiate and implement effective public-private-partnerships for transport infrastructure. We are aware that more still needs to be done in this area and UN-OHRLLS aims to continue to work with LLDCs to strengthen their capacity on developing bankable projects and well as on PPP and other areas aimed at enhancing their connectivity to the global economic.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to the resource persons especially from the United Nations system organizations and other international and regional organizations for taking their time from their busy schedules to participate in this training and continue to support UN-OHRLLS in its efforts to build the capacity of our Groups of Countries. I thank UN-OHRLLS resources person, for providing the training material and sharing his extensive knowledge in this area.

I thank you all and congratulate you for your dedication and active engagement in this workshop.

The training covered a varied number of topics as guided by the submission of the Ministry of Transport. It covered 10 topics including the introduction of transport infrastructure development and maintenance, the traffic impact analysis as well as the key steps necessary to successfully implement a PPP transport infrastructure project.

The presentations also covered some case studies focusing mainly on projects in the region and these case studies were intended to give live examples including success and challenges.

The World Bank colleagues also shared their insights on the Economic and Financial Analyses of Transport Projects and Road Asset Management.

Ladies and gentlemen

Let me reiterate the importance of transport infrastructure connectivity to LLDCs as well as the importance of addressing the challenges faced by LLDCs to meet their transport infrastructure needs which include lack of resources. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the VPoA points to partnerships, including with the private sector, as one important means of implementing the SDGs. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) present the opportunity to leverage expertise, innovation, financial resources and policy mechanisms. It is however also generally recognized that PPPs can pose challenges as the financial interests of the different parties are not completely aligned. In addition, many of the developing countries still lack the capacity to deal with the PPPs.

I am aware that Botswana has some transport infrastructure projects that are earmarked for PPPs and I hope this training has equipped you with the necessary skills to implement these projects. It is our hope that Botswana will in the future be one of success story in implementing PPP in the transport sector.

Distinguished participants,

The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held 14-16 October 2021, Beijing, China. The Conference will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide. It is expected to indicate a way forward for sustainable transport to help achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change in the Decade of Action. Most of the sessions will be virtual and I encourage you to actively participate in the meeting. UN-OHRLLS and some partners are organizing a virtual side event on 'Digitalization of multimodal transport corridors and its contribution to the implementation of the VPoA' on 13 October from 8am to 10am. An invitation has been extended to Ministry of Transport and we look forward to your active participation and contribution in the side event.

UN-OHRLLS in collaboration with the Government of Turkmenistan also planning to hold a meeting of Ministers of Transport of LLDCs in 2022. The invitation to this meeting will be send out early next year.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, I would like to thank all of you once again for your engagement.

I wish to encourage you to complete the evaluation of this training workshop that will be shared with you today as it shall help us shape our future engagements.

I want to thank the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund for supporting this training workshop.

I look forward to our work together, as we advance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.