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**UN-OHRLLS**

**Statement by**

**Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray**

**High Representative**

**and**

**Under-Secretary- General**

**Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small  
Island Developing States**

**at**

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

*11 October 2021*

*09:00 am Gaborone time 3:00am NY time*

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Government of Botswana to the United Nations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend my warm greetings to you all and welcome you to this two-day national training workshop.

This will focus on how public-private partnerships can be best utilized to support improved transport connectivity.

These next two days learning will be underpinned by our shared goals and ambitions.

Most notably, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a blueprint for prosperity, peace and dignity for all.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda highlights the importance of being innovative when it comes to mobilizing and accessing resources.

It reflects the special needs of landlocked developing countries.

We also take heed of the goals in the Vienna Programme of Action. The comprehensive framework that was agreed upon to tackle the LLDCs' structural limitations.

And it identifies transport infrastructure development and maintenance, and transit policy issues, as two of the six priority areas for action.

Africa's Agenda 2063 also emphasizes the need to develop world class infrastructure. That calls for newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea and air.

An enabling transport infrastructure is fundamental for boosting trade for the world's largest free trade area: the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

And yet we know that there is a huge financing gap when it comes to developing infrastructure in Africa.

The African Development Bank estimate that gap to be between \$68 and \$108 billion annually.

That supply of finance is simply not readily available to the land-locked developing countries. And that is why it is important to utilize public private partnerships.

Governments and the private sector working together, each bringing their own unique strengths and focus.

But, PPPs do not happen on their own.

You need a certain capacity to negotiate, design and effectively monitor the proper implementation of any given project.

There is also a need for an enabling policy and the right legal and regulatory framework.

I commend Botswana for the efforts that you have already made to improve the PPP infrastructure investment climate.

The PPP Policy and Framework has created a solid environment aimed at encouraging and attracting the private sector for infrastructure and service delivery.

Your National Development Plan 11 also underscores the important role of PPPs in delivering infrastructure projects.

I hope that this training workshop will help you build on this existing progress.

With the wide range of expertise on offer, I am sure that this training will equip you with new skills and knowledge.

I hope it fires your imaginations about new road, railway and air infrastructure that can enhance connectivity of your country.

I must thank a number of partners for supporting this workshop:

- The World Bank
- The Development Bank of Southern Africa  
and
- UNCTAD

Also, thanks to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund* of the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund.

The United Nations as a whole, and my Office in particular, will continue to support your efforts in the implementation of:

- The Vienna Programme of Action
- the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and
- the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063.

I wish you a successful workshop.

I thank you.