



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

REMARKS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOKGWEETSI ERIC KEABETSWE MASISI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 114TH SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL
UNDER THE THEME "CLIMATE IMPACT ON HUMAN MOBILITY: A
GLOBAL CALL FOR SOLUTIONS"**

Tuesday, 28th November 2023

- **Director General, International Organisation for Migration (IOM);**
- **Heads of State and Government;**
- **Honourable Ministers;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. **Chairperson,** I wish to preface my remarks by expressing my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this **114TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL** (IOM) whose theme is "*Climate Impact on Human Mobility: A Global Call for Solutions.*"
2. Let me also congratulate you, Director General Amy Pope, on your assumption of this important post of the International Organisation of Migration this past October. Your election bears clear testament to your excellent qualities and the confidence of Member States in your ability to deliver the key organisational priorities you identified, as well as fulfil the overall mandate of the International Organisation for Migration. I want to assure you, Director General, of Botswana's full support in the implementation of the mandate of the IOM.

3. Botswana recognises the critical role that the International Organisation for Migration plays as the leading intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration. We recognise that over the past seventy (70) years, the organisation has facilitated the safe migration of millions of migrants, who are mostly women and children around the globe.
4. **Chairperson,** climate change is having a devastating effect on our planet. The extent, scale, and increasing frequency of climate-related disasters in many parts of the world is a clear indication that humanity is facing destruction of unimaginable proportions, unless we take action urgently.
5. The climate-related disasters we are witnessing exacerbate mobility by people seeking safety, security and stability for themselves and their families. This movement occurs both within the borders of their countries and beyond, which requires robust mechanisms that can support them as they journey to places, with the hope to build new homes.
6. In order to effectively address climate change, we must prioritise international cooperation and partnerships. We will need to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy sources and invest in clean technologies. This demands adequate and

sustainable financing for mitigation and adaptation, especially for developing countries.

7. The clarion call of this High-Level Segment is therefore, for us to identify and agree on how, as global leaders, we can collectively work towards ensuring that climate mobility is better managed and anticipated.
8. **Chairperson**, allow me at this juncture to share with you a few examples of how we are dealing with the challenge in Botswana. **Firstly**, the Government of Botswana is taking steps to minimise carbon emissions in order to mitigate the effects of climate change. In this regard, we are deploying Green Energy Technologies under the Integrated Resource Management Plan, which will assist in achieving the 30% objective for green energy contribution to the overall power generation by 2030.
9. **Secondly**, to reduce the use of fossil fuels, there is collaboration between the University of Botswana and our National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) on biofuel research. The main goal of this research is to generate biodiesel from cattle tallow and used cooking oil. The use of biofuel instead of fossil fuels, known to be the most significant contributors to climate change, would be a highly welcome development.

10. **Thirdly**, the country's premier science, technology and engineering university, the Botswana International University of Science and Technology, is working on projects such as creating a prototype for coal-to-liquid fuel conversion and coal gasification as a source of energy. This would be crucial for Botswana, as the country seeks to exploit its massive coal reserves in a more environmentally friendly manner.

11. To reduce the country's vulnerability to climate change, the Government of Botswana has also made some commitments through our 2023/24 national budget, which include the following:
 - a) The implementation of the National Climate Change Policy of 2021, which incorporates climate change issues into the planning, design, and development of infrastructure. Guidelines for integrating climate change issues into Environmental Impact Assessments will be finalised during the fiscal year 2023/24.

 - b) The Government of Botswana will continue to raise climate finance through green bonds, carbon credit markets, and access to the Green Climate Fund. To that end, Botswana has seven (7) projects approved through the Green Climate Fund, totalling USD 81.0 million, covering both adaptation and mitigation objectives.

c) At the Continental level, we support the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action, adopted at the conclusion of the Africa Climate Summit, which took place from 4th to 6th September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Declaration calls for investment to promote the sustainable use of Africa's natural resources to help the continent transition to low-carbon development and contribute to global decarbonisation.

12. **Chairperson**, let me conclude by, once again, thanking the International Organisation for Migration for allowing Botswana to share her perspective on one of the most important issues of our time.

I thank you for your kind attention.
