

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
WILDLIFE AND TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA, HONOURABLE ONKOKAME KITSO
MOKAILA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
15th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE
UNFCCC IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
DECEMBER 16, 2009.**

[Salutations]

Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Allow me, from the onset, to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the Climate Change Conference and also to express my personal appreciation and that of my delegation to the Government and people of Denmark for their hospitality and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements.
2. Mr President, Botswana is experiencing the impacts of global warming and climate change. Extreme weather events such as storms, floods, and droughts are recurring more often and are becoming more prolonged.
3. Botswana's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change points to two critical challenges:
 - i) The need to better understand the science of climate change,

- ii) The need to determine the environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change on sectors such as health, water, tourism, mining and agriculture; and
- 4. Mr President, Botswana would like to reiterate its commitments to the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. In Indonesia we defined the Bali Road Map; in Denmark we are determined to seal a Copenhagen Agreement which will fulfil our commitments from Bali.
- 5. The impacts of global warming and climate change are pronounced and evident across sectors. Climate change impacts on the health sector, for instance, have led to increased incidences and geographical spread of malaria and diarrhoea. Similar patterns have been observed in a variety of pests and diseases in the arable and livestock sectors. Botswana needs to adapt to climate change but this comes at a cost; a cost indeed to other development programmes.
- 6. Although Botswana has no binding requirement to reduce its emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, we do aspire to develop a low-emission economy and become more carbon efficient. However, for that we require funding, technology and capacity.
- 7. We recognize the importance of forest management and avoiding deforestation in sequestering carbon. We acknowledge the existence of clean technologies but we need a global framework for technology transfer, including financing.

8. At the sub-regional level, there is need to put in place high resolution climate modelling for forecasting to allow us to determine and cope with the future impacts of climate change on our key sectors. At the national level, we need to understand the impact of a two degree increase in global temperature on our ecosystems. We therefore call on the Annex I parties to fully support our capacity building effort to enable us to develop our own solutions to climate change challenges.
9. Furthermore, we need adaptation financing, and technology transfer. This will allow to us to achieve our sustainable development agenda. In enhancing the funding for adaptation, innovative measures such as international air passenger taxation should also be considered.
10. These and other measures would ensure that we will have access to predictable, additional and sustainable funding for climate change adaptation which most of us need in the short term.
11. In conclusion Mr President, whilst we need adaptation funding immediately, we would like to urge our development partners to consider that only a long term commitment to adaptation financing will allow us to attain sustainable development.
13. I thank you for your kind attention.