

BOTSWANA

Statement by the Minister of Works, Transport & Communications Honourable Mr David N. Magang to the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change High Level Segment 20 - 24 November 2000, The Hague, The Netherlands

1. Mr President, it is my great pleasure to participate in this Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. Botswana as a Party to the UNFCCC is committed to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol. In this regard, steps have been taken for Botswana to become a Party to the Kyoto Protocol. However, we note with great concern that very few developed country Parties have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. It is, therefore, important for the effective implementation of the Protocol that more Annex I

Parties do ratify the Protocol to help its speedy entry into force by latest 2002. We commend those Non Annex I (that is, developing countries) Parties which have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. This is a reflection of the importance developing country Parties attach to the global warming and climate change issue, in particular stabilisation of greenhouse gases.

3. Mr President, I support the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China on behalf of the Group.
4. I would like to underline the need and importance of real action which must be taken by Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and transfer of technology to Non Annex I Parties to enable the

latter to effectively implement and live upto their obligations under the Convention. The issues of technology transfer, financial resources and capacity building have been debated for quite sometime with very little effect as nothing is forthcoming as expected from developed country Parties. It is time to have action and tangible results; otherwise there is no benefit in talking and taking decisions on these issues when there is virtually no progress since the Rio Earth Summit of June 1992.

5. Mr President, the Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) have only benefitted few members of G77 and China with Africa getting very little support or benefit. For capacity building under Article 4.5 of the Convention AIJ, it is very important to build the endogenous capacities and capabilities. Non Annex

I Parties are still lagging behind in capacity and capability to utilise existing technologies to the maximum benefit as well as anticipated technologies to be developed and effected to address the issue of climate change. This lack of capacity contributes to delays in complying with the obligations of the Convention. In this connection, I note with concern the delay regarding Botswana's submission of its initial National Communication due to lack of national capacity. However, the Botswana's initial National Communication will be submitted to the Secretariat before the end of this year.

6. It should be noted that the implementation of the Convention by developing country Parties faces competing and pressing national commitments and

priorities, notably poverty eradication and improvement of life styles of citizens of these countries. In this regard, I would like to underscore the provision of Article 4.7 of the Convention.

7. Botswana has suffered the adverse effects of climate fluctuations and variability in the long-term, particularly in the form of droughts and in the short-term in the form of tropical cyclones and severe thunderstorms resulting in floods, destruction of property and loss of life. It is my understanding that natural disasters will worsen with climate change. The experience in Southern Africa with tropical cyclone Eline during February and March 2000 is still very fresh in our memories.
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8. Likewise, the droughts of the eighties and nineties are still haunting our memories. If climate change is going to worsen these natural disasters, it is compelling for us to see Article 4.5, 4.8, 4.9 of the Convention put into effect. This would help build the capacity to address the adverse effects and impact of climate change as well as strengthen existing institutions and set up others as appropriate.
9. For climate assessment and participation in Research and Systematic Observation, Education, Training and Public Awareness in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention, developed country Parties should support initiatives made under the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) of the WMO. Stations identified for the

GCOS Network, especially, those in developing countries suffer a lot of set backs.

10. These include lack of financial resources to put up new stations, rehabilitate existing stations and obtain consumables for surface and upper air stations which are indeed very costly to maintain. The Global Environment Facility should thus make special provision to augment national efforts in data collection, processing and research initiatives to address climate change. National development programme priorities often make it difficult to obtain adequate financial resources to run stations as the competition for the meagre resources at the disposal of governments is very high.

11. The need to deliver on Annex I and non-Annex I country cooperation and collaboration cannot, therefore, be over-emphasised.

I thank you, Sir.