



**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF**

**ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE AND TOURISM,**

**HON. ONKOKAME KITSO MOKAILA**

**DURING THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT  
OF THE UNFCCC COP17**

**Durban, 8 December 2011**

Madam President

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Parties,

Ladies and gentlemen

1. I am grateful to join the distinguished Parties and add the voice of my country, Botswana to the ongoing COP17 debate.

2. My delegation wishes to associate itself with the Statement delivered yesterday on behalf of the Africa Group as well as the Statement delivered on behalf of the G77 +China.

3. Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you Madam, for the excellent arrangements and facilities put at our disposal to create a conducive environment for dialogue in Durban. I pledge my delegation's full support in the execution of your mandate.

Madam President,

4. Botswana believes Durban has accorded us an opportunity to muster courage and do what is right, being to preserve the integrity of life support system on planet earth.
5. The delegation of Botswana is highly optimistic that we can collectively reaffirm our commitment and our common interest to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action

Plan as guiding principles and roadmap to sustainable development.

6. It is a fact Madam President, that since our discussions started under the UNFCCC, emissions have not reduced. The negative impacts of climate change have continued to erode our development effort, as developing countries.
7. To illustrate this point, as you are aware Botswana is both semi-arid and landlocked and therefore vulnerable to climate change in terms of Article 4 of the Convention. The effects of climate change have manifested themselves in frequent and severe droughts, floods, storms and heat waves. Botswana has of late been experiencing unprecedented temperatures of 41° Celsius.

8. A thirty percent (30%) reduction in yield of cereal crop comprising maize and sorghum was attributed to extreme temperatures. Cereal crop occupies approximately 75% of land under arable agriculture. This has exacerbated our food security problem and remains a threat to our poverty eradication efforts.

9. These extreme weather events have challenged our progress in the development of infrastructure. An exorbitant amount has been quoted for adapting designs of roads and bridges to withstand the changing and unstable climatic conditions. Equally the demand on our disaster preparedness and response is increasingly placing a heavy burden on our limited resources.

10. Botswana relies heavily on groundwater resources.

Studies have shown that groundwater will be depleted by 1-4 metres by 2030. The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) predicts with over 80% certainty that Botswana will face water scarcity. This will undoubtedly affect our achievement of the Millennium Development Goals particularly those on health, ecosystems and access to clean water.

11. It is against this background that Botswana has taken adaptation as a priority in order to attain resilience to climate change. We look to the global partners to be considerate, in discussing capacity building, technological transfer and the funding for climate change, here in Durban.

Madam President

12. My delegation humbly expects COP 17 to take decisions that promote the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. These include the following:

- i) To register success in the second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol. We believe the Protocol remains central to the pursuit of equity in sharing the responsibility to protect the citizens of the world.
- ii) To fully operationalize the Cancun Agreement including the establishment and capitalization of the Green Climate Fund to provide the necessary initial start-up finance.

13. My delegation calls for greater demonstration of leadership by developed countries in honouring their carbon emission reduction obligations and in providing much needed resources to enable adaptation and mitigation in developing countries.

14. In conclusion Madam President, the people of Botswana look forward to a fair, transparent and credible outcome from COP 17/ CMP 7. We remain hopeful that Durban will be remembered as the place where the Bali Action Plan came to life!

I thank you for your attention.