

***THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAME WORK CONVETION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE***

NOVEMBER – 1998

BUENOS AIRES – ARGENTINA

***STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE
BOOMETSWE MOKGOTHU
ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
LANDS AND HOUSING***

BOTSWANA

Madam President
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

Madam President, on behalf of the Botswana Delegation, and on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the challenging position of President of the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are confident that through your able leadership, the meeting will have fruitful deliberations.

Madam President as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Botswana is committed to the implementation of the Convention and has, since becoming a party, taken a number of steps in this regard. In addition to the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks prepared under the United States Country Study programme to address Climate Change, a National Committee on Climate Change has been established and is fully operational.

The main objective of the National Committee on Climate Change is to oversee the completion of the initial national communication, educate the public on the adverse effects of the greenhouse gases and to secure the cooperation of all stake holders, particularly the industry, in reducing, with the ultimate goal of stabilizing the emissions of the greenhouse gases.

Another important step that has recently been taken by Botswana as part of the awareness campaign, is the publication of a monthly newsletter CLIMATENEWS. The first issue of the newsletter was released in October 1998.

Botswana, though a small scale emitter of green house gases, is very keen on the ongoing discussions and developments relating to the Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol; the objectives of which are similar to Botswana's national objectives, particularly in areas of environment and sustainable development.

Botswana is already prone to adverse impacts of climate vagaries including droughts and floods. Global Warming and the resulting Climate Change is therefore a major concern. Issues such as health, water and food availability,

possible impact of Global Warming and Climate Change on forests, wildlife habitat are major developmental issues. Each of these, whatever the future scenario, would have great impact on the national developmental aspirations and would usually require that we redirect resources and our point of emphasis.

Botswana's developmental objectives also place great emphasis on Clean Development Mechanism to address specific needs of small emitting countries. We therefore urge our partners to assist us to move faster towards the conclusions of the discussions on the Mechanism.

In conclusion Madam President, Botswana looks forward to working closely with you in ensuring that a meaningful and implementable Kyoto Protocol is reached.

I thank you Madam President.