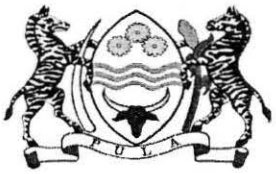

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATEMENT BY

Mr. THABANG LESLIE BOTSHOMA

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE

MINISTRY OF ENIVORNMENT, WIILDLIFE AND TOURISM

DURING THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP-16

8th DECEMBER 2010

CANCUN, MEXICO

Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT BY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA DURING THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP-16, Cancun, 8th DECEMBER 2010.

- Madam President
- Excellencies
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Government and the people of Mexico for their warm hospitality. Let me also thank you Madam President for the able manner in which you have guided these deliberations.

Allow me to also extend our deepest sympathies to all the countries that have been affected by recent flooding and other calamities borne by climate change.

Madam President, we are gathered here in your beautiful city of Cancun, with a critical responsibility and amid high global expectations to respond to some of these issues. The onus is on us, individually and collectively, to either make the right decisions that would immediately save lives or we can continue our posturing and cost more people their lives and way of life.

The speakers before could not over emphasis the realities of climate change facing us today individually and collectively. To us the

developing countries, this is not an issue for negotiation, it is an issue of our very existence. We can live with compromises but bearing in mind that you are asking us to compromise our existence for the sake of our shared common space to which we bear no responsibility to the carbon dioxide emissions that threaten the rich and poor.

Botswana like many other developing and vulnerable countries, is already suffering from severe impacts of global warming and climate change. We are experiencing high heat waves, highly unreliable rainfall and widespread drought. For many years our nation has been surviving on arable farming but today, the unpredictable rainfalls have devastated and frustrated the means of living for many of our people further worsening the poverty margins. Clearly, this has far reaching implications on all aspects of our economy including Health, Water, Tourism and Mining.

Instead of developing, we are now focusing on sustaining the livelihoods of our people. Ladies and gentlemen, time is no more. We cannot go on without reaching an agreement and that must be done here in Cancun at least on the critical issues that can drive the process forward and bring hope to our people.

Madam President,

The challenge for Botswana is to determine appropriate climate change adaptation track and mitigation actions that will ensure climate resistant development and contribute to poverty reduction

and overall sustainable development. Botswana's vulnerability points to three critical challenges: the need to understand the science of climate change and reduce uncertainties, the need to determine the socio-economic impacts of climate change on our various sectors of development - and the implication that climate change will have on our sustainable development.

In this connection, even though Botswana is a minor contributor to global warming, we have put in place several initiatives to ensure that we maintain a carbon efficient economy. We also recognize the importance of forest management and reforestation in reducing carbon emissions as we continue to protect our forests from deforestation. We still lack the relevant cost effective technology to achieve our ambitions for forest management and protection that can assist in the achievement of our national and global agenda.

This therefore underscores the urgent need for appropriate and affordable technology development and transfer. We acknowledge that there are cleaner technologies which are, however, unaffordable to developing countries like Botswana. A global framework for technology transfer including financing has therefore become necessary. These Madam President, are inherent to adaptation actions which are also costly, and in most cases, has a multiplier cost effect to other development programmes. This therefore calls for financial support from various sources to which we enjoin our developed partners and financial agencies to assist in that regard.

Madam President, Botswana would like to call on the parties to agree on the establishment of a new fund under the convention which must be scaled up, provide new and additional resources and be more accessible to the developing countries and Least Developed Countries. We also would like to see progress being made on the adaptation fund and mitigation as these are important vehicles that can help drive the climate change agenda particularly in achieving the objectives of the convention.

We can also not overemphasis the need to secure the future of the Kyoto Protocol which set to establish quantified and legally binding targets for limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As we approach the end of the first commitment period, we must all engage and agree on more ambitious emission reduction targets for the second commitment period. We must agree on numbers ladies and gentlemen, we cannot waste any more time on construction of sentences but no substance. We know the numbers are a concern for everybody but such concerns are not worth compromising our environmental integrity and sustenance of the global temperature below the recommended levels. The time has come for concrete actions alongside negotiations.

Madam President, a legally binding mechanism under the LCA is inevitable, I call on all leaders to provide political leadership and facilitate the process in the interest of our environmental integrity. It is through collective and integrated efforts that our common objective under the convention can result in meaningful,

constructive and implementable processes that can benefit the sustainable use and development of our precious environment.

In conclusion Madam President, as I wish all the parties a merry Christmas, I know that we shall be buying our families and friends sealed presents from Cancun and I wish to assist in the choices of such presents. The best present that you can take to your families, friends and nations is a sealed agreement from here in Cancun which will remain memorable in both historic and political fraternity.

I thank you.