PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NOTE NO.:UN/BOT/130 (30) P1

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has the honour to convey Botswana's wish to be associated with the Copenhagen Accord of 18 December 2009 and to be accordingly reflected in the chapeau of the Accord.

The Government of Botswana takes the view that the Accord provides a good basis for engagement which would culminate in the adoption of a comprehensive, ambitions and legally binding outcome during COP 16 in Mexico.

Forwarded herewith is copy of a letter signed by the Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, as well as an outline of mitigation actions as required under paragraph 5 of the Accord.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change assurances of its highest consideration.

February 1, 2010
New York

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
Haus Carstanjén
Martin Luther King Strasse 8
P. O. Box 260124
53153, Bonn
GERMANY

154 East 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 • Tel. (212) 889 2277 • Fax (212) 725-5061 • E-mail: Botswana@botsrep.com

Submission by Botswana to the call by the Copenhagen Accord for Mitigation Actions by Non-Annex I Parties:

Responding to the call by the UNFCCC Secretariat for submission of information on mitigation actions as required under paragraph 5 of the Copenhagen Accord of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference 2009

1. Introduction / Background:

Botswana is a developing country with significant development challenges - poverty, unemployment and high vulnerability to climate change impacts. We recognize that climate change and development are closely linked. Botswana will play its part in line with prescriptions in Convention and take action in ways appropriate to national circumstances. Botswana is and will continue to be a carbon intensive economy – mainly coal based. Botswana is also committed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol.

2. Responding to the call by the UNFCCC Secretariat for submission of information on mitigation actions as required under paragraph 5 of the Copenhagen Accord:

In line with paragraph 5 of the Copenhagen Accord dated 19th December 2009; mitigation actions by Botswana will be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV). The mitigation actions will be relative to a baseline. Such baseline will be determined under the capacity building activities. The mitigation actions will therefore be relative reductions, or deviations from baseline, conditional on technology, finance and capacity building support in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner in line with paragraph 1.b (ii) of the Bali Road Map – Decision1/CP13. Botswana therefore needs to be informed by an analysis of mitigation options. A long term mitigation and adaptation strategy (LTMAS) needs to be developed to assess the study of country's mitigation potential in order to inform policy and specific action to address climate change.

3. Two approaches in the international climate change process:

There are 2 main approaches in the international climate change process, one focussing on mitigation and the other on adaptation. Both these approaches must be supported through adequate and appropriate technology transfer, capacity building and predictable finance.

3.1. Areas of focus for Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation will involve reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs), for example reducing carbon emissions from burning of petrol in transport sector, coal or from deforestation – or capturing carbon dioxide (C02) by for example

planting forests. Technologies are part of the solution: for example we can achieve greenhouse gas mitigation by applying solar energy, wind energy or carbon capture and storage (CCS).

3.2. Adaptation: Coping with climate change impacts:

Climate change adaptation is about taking measures to reduce the negative effects of global warming and increased climate variability. Adaptation therefore reduces vulnerability, for example the application of drought-resistant crops and application and promotion of climate change friendly technologies. Climate change adaptation may also be a key strategy to addressing poverty and improved living standards.

4. Registry of NAMAs:

Botswana will use the registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and recognises that NAMAs by developing countries are voluntary actions and not legally binding. These actions will include sustainable development policies and measures (SD-PAMs) such as:

- energy efficiency programmes;
- policies in the transport sector;
- standards in the building sector and
- minimum energy performance standards for household appliances.

5. Approaches to implementing the mitigation actions:

Botswana has a number of strategic plans and programmes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The mitigation actions will either be unilateral and or voluntary and in some instances these may include proposed mitigation actions submitted through the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.

(a) Unilateral mitigation actions by developing countries are those where we would use our own resources (e.g. public funds) and not supported by technology and finance from developed countries.
(b) Voluntary actions taken by developing countries are those which require support from developed countries in the form of finance, capacity building and technology.

6. Adaptation:

Climate change adaptation is a major area of activity. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and the potential impacts of response measures is a challenge faced by Botswana. Enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to ensure the implementation of the Convention by enabling and supporting the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience. Climate change adaptation must be supported by

adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building and skills transfer.

7. Reporting the Mitigation and Adaptation actions:

Botswana will report on mitigation actions through national communications consistent with Article 12.1(b) every two years and on the basis of guidelines to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Botswana will develop domestic measurement, reporting and verification approaches the result of which will be reported through their national communications. These supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

8. Summary:

In summary therefore Botswana submit the mitigation actions as a listing of areas where Botswana wishes to promote – broadly to include Capacity Building; Mitigation and Adaptation. Under Mitigation the key areas of opportunities will be refined later but will explore Emission Reduction and Energy Conservation and Efficiency. Under Emission Reduction portfolio – projects and programmes will include shift to gas from coal; nuclear; renewable; biomass and carbon capture and storage. Under energy conservation and efficiency – projects and programmes will target the mass transport systems, transport, building and low energy appliances. The unit of measurement of comparability is tons of CO2-eq.

Date of submission: 25th January 2010