

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM – 8 "INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COLLECTIVE
RIGHTS TO LANDS, TERRITORIES AND RESOURCES"**

**DURING THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT
FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

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1. The Laws of Botswana allow all citizens access to land in any part of the country regardless of their ethnicity or place of origin provided the land is not protected for environmental or other biodiversity use.
2. The guiding strategy is the "Remote Area Development Programme" (RADP) with the overall goal to "achieve sustainable social and economic development of people in remote areas, through a coordinated and integrated multi-sectorial approach, so that they can equally benefit from the rapid economic development of the country".
3. Land Administration in Botswana recognizes the existence and vulnerability of all special groups, including marginalized communities. Through due process and consultations with all those affected, there is special dispensation, administration and management of all Tribal Land at the disposal of marginalized communities including for settlement, heritage sites, preserved natural resources areas, grazing areas, arable land and tourism concession areas to name but a few.
4. The remote area communities are given preferential land allocation as individuals for different personal use and collectively as a community for projects in line with RADP guidelines. In addition, Remote Area Communities are provided with education about land rights, access and acquisition procedures, and material assistance in making applications to the Land Boards.
5. With regards to remote area communities' collective rights to resources, Government of Botswana is implementing a programme known as the Community Based Natural Resources Management, which aims at promoting utilization of natural resources by local communities to improve their livelihoods. Communities are assisted by Government to form community based Organizations also known as Trusts, which allows them to be given user rights over natural resources found within their areas. through these Trusts communities showcase their culture, conserve the flora and fauna, benefit financially.

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and

Thank you Madam Chairperson