

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
154 EAST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
TEL. (212) 889-2277

**STATEMENT**

**DELIVERED BY**

**HON. SLUMBER TSOGWANE,  
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM – 4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIX MANDATED  
AREAS OF THE PERMANENT FORUM WITH REFERENCE TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

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

**26th APRIL 2017  
NEW YORK**

*Please check against delivery*

**Madam Chairperson,**

1. Allow me to also contribute on this important topic which covers areas we consider essential in uplifting the livelihoods and well-being of our marginalized Communities.
2. The implementation of the Declaration is based on our democratic set up and processes which provide all citizens of Botswana with a conducive environment devoid of infringements of their rights.
3. The provisions of this Declaration are implemented through our "Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities", which was approved in July 2014. This Framework and its (10) year plan is aimed at uplifting the livelihoods of our remote area communities.
4. Some of the main objectives of this Framework include the following:
  - (a) provide infrastructure in the recognized remote area settlements to be able to participate and benefit from the country's socio-economic development;
  - (b) enable remote area communities to build sustainable livelihoods, promote self-reliance and sustainable utilization of natural resources; and
  - (c) enhance remote area communities' access to social services, poverty eradication initiatives and other national development programmes.
5. In conformity with the Declaration as it relates to the Six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum, the Government of Botswana has deliberate programmes that empower local communities to utilize land and natural resources found in their areas for economic gain and for cultural purposes. The local communities' are assisted to establish

Community Based Natural Resources and Community Based Organizations to carryout income generating and employment creation activities to uplift their livelihoods.

6. In this regard, I will cite two initiatives that benefit remote area communities.

(a) The Tsodilo Community Initiative which conforms to the UNESCO/World Heritage Committee's decision that communities living in and around World Heritage Sites should benefit. It is a project in the buffer area of Tsodilo World Heritage site that provides water to the community, water for livestock, a craft centre and campsite which promotes training and employment of youth.

(b) Okavango World Heritage Site is another initiative by Government to develop a Management Plan for the Okavango Delta in line with the decision of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bonn, Germany in 2015 that recommended the expansion and strengthening of programmes to accommodate use of natural resource for upliftment of livelihoods, promote access rights, cultural rights and participation in the tourism sector.

7. In Conclusion, Botswana reaffirms her commitment to the implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum.

I thank you.