

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**ON AGENDA ITEM 6: "DISCUSSION ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE  
ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES"**

**AT THE  
"TWELFTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS  
ISSUES"**

**28 May, 2013**

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*Check Against Delivery*

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. Allow me to begin by reaffirming Botswana's commitment to the fulfillment of her obligations to the promotion of, respect for and observance and protection of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

2. My delegation welcomes the decision of the General Assembly through its resolution 65/198 of December 2010 to organise a High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) to be held on 22 and 23 September 2014.

3. We believe that the WCIP will offer an opportunity to review the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the existing international human rights instruments, which will undoubtedly add an impetus to the protection and promotion of the rights and wellbeing of the people all over the world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. Botswana attaches great importance to the UNDRIP. It is our belief that UNDRIP~~s~~ is a principal guiding document to enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between States and indigenous peoples.

5. In this context, the importance of constructive engagement, the spirit of partnership and mutual respect cannot be overemphasised.

6. My delegation therefore believes that the main objective of the World Conference which is to share perspectives and best practices

will go a long way in pursuit of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. Consistent with the mandate and the spirit of resolution 66/296 regarding the need for inclusive participation in the preparations for the Conference, we welcome the preparatory processes that have so far taken place in various regions and take note of the outcomes of those processes.

8. In this connection, we have taken particular interest in the outcome of the African Regional Meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20-21 November 2012 as part of the preparatory process for the World Conference.

9. While we take note of the concerns expressed in the outcome of Africa regional meeting and recommendations addressed to States, we are also ~~are~~ encouraged by calls for dialogue with State actors prior to and during the World Conference on issues of relevance to indigenous peoples .

10. In our view such calls are in recognition of the fact that dialogue is key to the resolution of any problem or challenges that may be faced.

11. We look forward to participating in other thematic events to contribute to the preparations for the Conference as well as contributing to the outcome of and participating in the Conference.

12. I wish to conclude by stressing the need for the continuation of an inclusive process and common understanding in order to achieve a successful outcome of the World Conference.

I thank you for your attention.