



Republic of Botswana

**STATEMENT BY THE
MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

HONOURABLE D. K. KWELAGOBE

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYOGO
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AT THE FIRST
SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

5 – 7 JUNE 2007, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Chairperson

Secretary General

Under- Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

Assistant Under- Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning on this first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

1.1 I am confident Chairperson that under your guidance, this first session will achieve the intended objectives.

2. Chairperson, Botswana was one of the 168 countries that adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Framework called on Governments to build resilience through **ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation; Identifying, assessing and**

monitoring disaster risks and enhancing early warning: Using knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; reducing underlying disaster risks and strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

2.1 Chairperson, Botswana demonstrated her commitment to disaster reduction by setting up policy and institutional frameworks such as the National Committee on Disaster Management in 1993, the National Policy on Disaster Management in 1996 and followed by the National Disaster Management Office in 1998. Botswana is developing a National Disaster Management Plan and National Disaster Response Plan.

2.2 The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) coordinates disaster management in Botswana and implementation at sector level. The Government allocates resources for the coordination and implementation of disaster risk

reduction, among others, the National Disaster Management Relief Fund Order.

2.3 The National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) is responsible for formulation of policies. The National Disaster Management Technical Committee (NDMTC) is a multi-sectoral technical advisory body composed of subject matter specialists.

3. Chairperson, a project that would identify hazards, and assess risks and vulnerabilities for all areas in Botswana and come up with appropriate disaster risk reduction measures has been started.

3.1 Botswana is involved in the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project for South Eastern Africa under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation. The project is intended to assist the Department of Meteorological Services to improve the quality of their forecast and to coordinate their efforts with

- the National Disaster Management Office for effective dissemination of early warning.
4. Chairperson, Botswana has set up an office to educate stakeholders on disaster risk reduction. To this end, the Ministry of Education is considering integrating disaster risk reduction in their school curricula. Furthermore, regular presentations and workshops are organised for stakeholders on disaster risk reduction from time to time.
 - 4.1 The state-owned free national newspaper runs articles weekly on disaster risk reduction issues. In addition, the country commemorates International Disaster Reduction Day annually.
 5. Chairperson, to address underlying disaster risks, the Hazard Identification, Risk and vulnerability Assessment Study will recommend appropriate measures to be put in place to address the underlying disaster risks.

- 5.1 Botswana promulgated the Environment Impact Assessment Act of 2005 which will enable the country to address the potential risks of planned developmental activities, and provide for the monitoring and evaluation process of the environmental impacts of implemented activities.
- 5.2 Botswana has been participating in the Limpopo River Basin Project, organised by the the United Nations Human Settlement Programme. The project is intended to assist communities to work on ways of reducing vulnerability to flood disasters in Shoshong and Taung areas.
6. Chairperson, the National Disaster Management system that is being developed will go a long way in strengthening preparedness by enhancing collaborative efforts of stakeholders on disaster risk reduction.
7. Chairperson, we still have challenges strengthening stakeholder participation,

integrating disaster risk reduction in poverty reduction strategies, developing early warning that is timely and understood by those at risk, and integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and climate change into development strategies.

8. In conclusion, Botswana is still faced with aforementioned disaster risk reduction challenges. We remain committed to implementing the framework.

I thank you Mr Chairperson.

