

UPDATED

**Republic of Botswana**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MR. BONIFACE G. MPHETLHE**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**7 DECEMBER 2009**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

President of the 13<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General Conference

Excellencies

Director General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella

Distinguished Delegates

Mr. President

1. The Botswana delegation wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of duty to chair the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNIDO General Conference and also to extend the support of my delegation to you and other elected members of your Bureau throughout the work of the Conference.
2. We wish to congratulate the Director General, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella on his appointment to lead this organisation and we are confident that he will continue his sterling work in this regard.

Mr. President

3. My delegation aligns itself to the Statement made by the esteemed Ambassador of Angola on behalf of the African Group as well as the statement by the Ambassador of Argentina on behalf of the G77 and China.

4. On behalf of the Botswana delegation, I would like to highlight some developments that have taken place in Botswana since the 12<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General Conference.

Mr. President

5. As we gather for the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of this Organisation my country, the Republic of Botswana like other developing countries is still grappling with the effects of the economic and financial crisis. We have therefore have come to this Conference with high expectations with respect to the outcome of the debates that will take place during this week.
6. Botswana is therefore reminded of UNIDO's resolution 2152 (XXI), whose primary objective is to promote and accelerate the industrialisation of developing countries. **Mr. President**, this objective has also been embraced by the Government of Botswana and remains key to our development efforts as we endeavour to reduce our reliance on the mining industry. These developments efforts are embedded in our economic diversification strategy which emphasises the principle of value addition, especially in the manufacturing sector.

Mr. President

7. We deeply appreciate the role of UNIDO and its efforts in assisting developing countries. In this regard, Botswana is currently working with UNIDO on the review of the Industrial Development Policy which will be finalised in early 2010. It is also our expectation that the revised policy will provide a platform for further collaboration in order to be able to consolidate the existing initiatives and thereby give new impetus to our industrialisation programme.
  
8. At the regional level, Botswana continues to actively participate in the Conference for African Ministers of Industry (CAMI), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This is in recognition of the fact that our industrialisation undertakings are underpinned by the provision of a vibrant and enabling trade environment in the SADC region and in the African continent. We commend UNIDO for their assistance to regional organisations in this regard.
  
9. Furthermore, Botswana embraces the SADC Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP) and we have since secured funding to develop our national programme. To this end, the Government of the Republic of

Botswana is appreciative of UNIDO's keen interest and participation in this initiative.

Mr. President

10. It is our aspiration, as Botswana, to transform our local enterprises to into sustainable and competitive entities which can provide job opportunities for Botswana citizens through an elaborate environmentally sensitive industrialisation programme. This will not only contribute to our efforts to alleviate poverty but also to the achievement of our National Vision of Prosperity for All by the year 2016.
  
11. With these few remarks, we wish to reiterate our full cooperation towards the success of this Conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.