STATEMENT

BY

THE

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AT THE

13TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HELD IN
DOHA, QATAR

12th – 19th April 2015
Mr President,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. Allow me to begin by joining others who have taken the floor before me to congratulate you on your election as President of this 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

2. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to express, through you, our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for hosting this Congress and for the customary warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

3. Previous Speakers have alluded to the critical role played by crime prevention and criminal justice in achieving economic prosperity, justice and rule of law. To this end, Botswana welcomes the theme of this Congress, as it relates to linkages between crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law as critical cornerstones for sustainable development.

4. As the international community defines the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the desire to fight poverty, promotion of inclusive societies and reduction of social inequality should be at the core of our global actions.

5. Botswana believes that in order to achieve these, we must place a high premium on education of young people and the promotion of a culture of peace and instilling social values.
6. **Mr. President**,  

We welcome the comprehensive report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and note with satisfaction that the report clearly identifies gaps and a challenge encountered by Member States and highlights the need for concerted international action in the fight against crime.

7. We have witnessed progress in responses towards the elimination of all forms of human and drug trafficking, violence and torture, especially against vulnerable members of our societies such as women, children and the disabled. However we note with concern that there has been an upsurge in illicit financial and arms flows, including various forms of organized crime that occur across all regions of the world.

8. We recognise that any structures developed must ensure the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights, delivery of justice, equality and fairness for all peoples worldwide.

9. In an effort to comply with international instruments, Botswana enacted into law, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act, Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act, Cyber and Computer Related Crimes Act and the Counter-Terrorism Act. In addition, Botswana has become host to the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre.

10. We cannot succeed on our own without the support of Regional and International partners. Botswana is therefore committed to the regional efforts by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and
the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In this connection, Botswana wishes to express her appreciation for the technical assistance rendered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international partners.

11. In many parts of the world, armed cartels, militias and organised terrorist groups continue to impoverish communities through illicit trafficking and transfer of wildlife and animal products.

12. Every passing day, millions of animals fall prey to illegal poachers who rob our countries of the much needed natural capital and resources.

13. At a regional level, Botswana has joined forces and established frameworks with neighbouring countries to fight the rising tide of poaching as it impairs development and is a threat to peace and sustainable development.

14. In this respect, we are working with our immediate neighbours in a collaborative effort to combat poaching of wildlife especially elephants and rhinos.

15. It is worth noting that, this Congress convenes at a time when the UN Member States and all relevant actors in the international community are working towards finalizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) which will be adopted by world leaders during the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September later this year.

16. The proposed Goal 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to
justice for all and building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. It is therefore imperative to commit ourselves to an outcome of this 13th Congress that affirms this particular Goal and its Targets.

17. In conclusion, Botswana urges governments to take responsibility and do everything within their power to achieve a secure, stable and peaceful global community for the benefit of both present and future generations.

**I thank you for your attention.**