



**BOTSWANA STATEMENT AS PRESENTED AT THE RESUMED 10^h
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA 11TH- 15TH DECEMBER 2023

***(PRESENTED BY MS. BOTLHALE MAKGEKGENENE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL
DIRECTORATE ON CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME)***

Your Excellency, the President, distinguished guests and delegates from States Parties, the Secretariat, let me thank you for affording me an opportunity to present this Statement on behalf of Botswana as the Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime.

Firstly, I extend congratulations to Your Excellency on your appointment. Your leadership assures us of productive deliberations towards achieving the objectives of this Conference.

Your Excellency, Botswana is reviewing the Corruption and Economic Crime Act to align with UNCAC Review recommendations and create modernized strategies for combating corruption. Furthermore, with the UNODC's support, Botswana is addressing deficiencies in its Whistleblowing Act to meet global standards.

In 2014, Botswana implemented the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act to prevent criminals from benefiting from illicit activities such as money laundering and racketeering. Notably, this Act introduced non-conviction-

based forfeiture, along with establishing the Office of the Receiver to manage restrained property.

Additionally, in 2019, Botswana enacted the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act. This Act led to the establishment of the Ethics and Integrity Directorate.

We are most grateful to the UNODC's Regional office of Pretoria for the assistance in creating an Asset Management Manual for the Receiver and capacitating the Ethics and Integrity Directorate.

Following the country's establishment of the Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Unit in 2019, Botswana humbly submits a request to the UNODC for technical assistance in capacitating officers under this Unit.

Your Excellency, through the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act we're cooperating with other States to request the recovery of proceeds of crime. Botswana has also signed numerous MoUs facilitating information and resource sharing to address mutual interests.

Your Excellency, Botswana employs a decentralized approach to prevent corruption, empowering public institutions for institutional-level risk management. Corruption Prevention Committees now operate in all Ministries and Parastatals, while Anti-Corruption Units are established in high-risk Ministries.

Aligned with UNCAC's Articles 6 and 9 and our commitment to establish Botswana as an 'Anti-Corruption Hub,' we host and support the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre, aiding various member states' capacity building on prevention of corruption.

Additionally, we collaborate with neighboring countries, focusing on enhancing corruption risk management capabilities. In partnership with the Financial Services Volunteer Corps and USAID, Botswana is actively assisting the Kingdom of Eswatini's Anti-Corruption Agency strengthen its corruption control strategies, frameworks and implementation of UNCAC.

Botswana contributed to the UNODC's Practical Guide on Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) in Preventing and Fighting Corruption in 2021 and 2022. Further Botswana engaged in the inaugural SAI-ACA Anti-Corruption Seminar in April 2023 where we shared experiences in dealing with FATF's grey listing, including challenges faced and ongoing mitigation efforts.

Your Excellency, Botswana's Civil Society Organisations have actively joined UNODC's UNCAC implementation conferences since 2019. In recognition of Civil Society Organizations' crucial role in fighting corruption, Botswana held dialogues to enhance their involvement in anti-corruption initiatives.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to convey appreciation for the recognition and invitation of our CSO's to participate as observers virtually

at this Conference, which will go a long way in enhancing Botswana's governance architecture.

We express gratitude to the Secretariat for supporting Member States, especially through initiatives like the Regional Fast Tracking program, aiding in Convention implementation and regional collaboration.

On that note Mr. President, I wish to reaffirm Botswana's firm commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

Thank you