

**REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. FESTUS G. MOGAE  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
AND HEAD OF DELEGATION**

**AT THE**

**59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2004**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. President  
Mr. Secretary General  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Let me start by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election to the Presidency of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session

10. The Millennium Declaration recognised that poverty eradication is fundamental to achieving sustainable development, but many of our people still live in conditions of abject poverty. The alleviation of poverty and its eventual eradication therefore remains a top priority. Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) levels continue to fall in real terms, to below the agreed target of 0.7% of Gross National Product. I must however commend the few countries which have met this target. They have demonstrated that the target is realistic and achievable.

11. Mr. President, the continuing debt burden is contributing significantly to the failure to deal effectively with the problem of poverty. Most developing countries have undertaken courageous measures to implement painful structural reforms.

17. Mr. President, international peace and security is under constant threat. Our collective memory appears to be failing to draw lessons even from the recent horrors of conflicts in Rwanda, Afghanistan and the Balkans. Millions of people continue to suffer and die needlessly in Africa and elsewhere because of unnecessary conflicts. It is once again Africa which has had to bear the brunt of these conflicts.

18.

26. Mr. President, in conclusion, I reaffirm the importance which Botswana attaches to the revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council. We commend the President of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly for his practical proposals in this area. We were disappointed that the General Assembly could not reach consensus on these proposals. My delegation will contribute in whatever way it can