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

154 EAST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. (212) 889-2277



STATEMENT

BY

**HON. MAJOR GENERAL MOENG R. PHETO, MP
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS**

AT THE

**HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

14 SEPTEMBER 2006, NEW YORK

Madame President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me, Madame President, to congratulate you on your election to the helm of this august body. My delegation is confident that your vast diplomatic experience will steer our deliberations successfully during

This is a story to which most of us can relate. The challenge, as always, is the ability to strike a balance between the interests of the receiving states and the sending states. There are issues of varying development levels amongst countries, between regions, continents and hemispheres. There are also challenges of nation building and democracy. Not very far from these are issues of security and health.

Madame President, Governments, In the first instance, carry the responsibility of improving the lives of their people by exploiting both the human potential of their subjects and the natural resources found within their borders. The international community, in the second instance, has a moral obligation to support the efforts of countries in the throes of development. Foreign direct investment, bilateral cooperation, as well as multilateral arrangements have a significant role to play in this respect.

A case in point is the HIV/AIDS scourge which threatens much of the developing world and in particular sub-Saharan Africa. Not only are countries compelled to divert their meager resources from development to wage war against the pandemic, the same countries lose the few health workers they have to the developed world, thus worsening the scares skills gaps in the health sector. A further complication is that in practical terms, it is difficult to treat one part of the community e.g. citizens, and exclude other community members e.g. migrants, and still hope to overcome the disease.

This disease brings to the fore the argument for collaborative efforts across the world through a comprehensive and coherent framework. This international solidarity and complementary action should extend to all aspects of international migration.

Madame President, let me conclude by reaffirming Botswana's commitment to the continuing dialogue on international migration and development. We have already put some policies in place to manage international migration, and we look forward to learning from other countries' experiences. We also stand ready to exchange views on how to collectively address the migration challenges.

Thank you.