



## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MRS SEGAKWENG TSIANE, PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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**NEW YORK**

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COMMISSION ON WOMEN

2000 NORTH ROYAL ST.

NEW YORK

THROUGH YOU

Mr President, I would like to thank you for your kind words and for your support in our efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. We are grateful for your continued support and encouragement.

Mr President,

What are the challenges facing our continent in the field of education?

My Delegation and I wish to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election. Allow us to also pay special tribute and request to Mme. Michèle Ramcharan, the Head of UN Women. My delegation condemns her untimely death in Botswana as well as so articulate in the United Nations General Assembly in 2010. Botswana takes this opportunity to dignify it. We have statements made by my government on behalf of Group of 77 and China. Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to the bold leadership step taken by the Secretary-General His Excellency Ban Ki-moon to facilitate and lead in the establishment of the UN Women. We are UN women!

This year's theme, 'Access and Participation of Women and Girls in Education, Training, Science and Technology, including for the Promotion of Women's Equal Access to Full Employment and Decent Work' is indeed appropriate, especially as all countries are hopeful, and are expecting a slow, but certain emergence from the economic downturn of the recent past. In this context, equality, and equity in education and employment are top most priorities. Infrastructure development, telecommunication and job are emerging as large employers in both primary and secondary industries. However, for many young girls and women, science and technology education and training are faced with many constructive and systematic barriers that are often rooted in social norms, practices, policies and legal considerations.

Mr President,

The theme challenges us to examine the role of science and technology as a means and an end to the empowerment of women, specifically in challenging us to have a commitment to reflect on how through education and training outcomes can be improved. The impact of science and technology on the lives of women, especially in developing communities should be evaluated in terms of global knowledge architecture in research and innovation, sustainable learning, e-services and health, especially HIV/AIDS, gender equality and rights.

In the context of our continent, we find that there is a lack of parity, underrepresentation, decent pay and recognition of the work done by women in science and technology, which is acquired by women in science and technology. Women are underrepresented compared with men, in high risk jobs, including heavy plant and machinery, or even working underground in mines. This phenomenon brings to the fore the need to review and update the Decent Work programmes and Global Jobs Pact in conjunction with the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a view to do away with gender science stereotypes and the enhancement of women workers' related rights.

Mr President,

In specific reference to Botswana, I am happy to report that we have taken bold steps to promote participation of girls in science and technology from the national and regional perspectives. Government is collaborating with NGOs and the academic institutions. For example, the Ministry of Education and Skills Development

[www.fewgasa.org](http://www.fewgasa.org) is with the Forum for Women Engineers and Girl Scientist in Africa (Forum-WEGSA) that is hosted by the University of Botswana on a Girl Scientist Mentorship Programme which has been expanded to include other universities at the national level established:-

- Secondary school mentorship programme under the theme Adopt-A-School" where each woman engineer and technologist is encouraged to take responsibility to join at least one secondary school, as a mentor and role model for young female aspiring scientist and engineer. The woman engineer also maintains liaison between her adopted school and an engineering industry e.g. mining, geology, diamond cutting and design, telecommunications, etc.
- Outreach activities for inspiring school science clubs which will provide mentoring and handholding programmes for young scientists and engineers; particularly for girl scientists.
- A summer special meeting programme for increased learning of science and technology, known as Science Boot Camps are being intensified with a view to expose aid students to science and engineering through fun learning.
- The National Internship Programme introduced by His Excellency the President of Botswana has already provided an opportunity for young female university graduates to experience practical transition from university to the world of work.

At the grassroots level, the encouragement of the learning of science and technology to become skilled and skilled . several avenues have been opened to expand access for women to science and technology education, thereby, increasing access to employment through basic artisanal training, the community based bric-a-brac skills training, and vocational training schools. In the 1990s Botswana Government through the Ministry of Labour and Human Affairs introduced competency based modernised skills training for both men and women literate learners. These pragmatics, individually and collectively, enabled young girls' access to artisan skills trades, scatting tailoring and mending, welding, bricklaying, plant and machinery and construction related skills, thereby, increasing their employability.

It is important to mention that in ICT, where we see an almost equal access to ICT training, there are however disparities in terms of qualifications between boys and girls. While boys tend to choose to study computer engineering and software design, girls choose to study in greater numbers network design, systems integration and data management which finds a better fit in the competitive pay structure between men and women in ICT.

In addition, Botswana Government has during the current National Development Plan (2014-2020), 2015 budget allocated financial support to technical and vocational education, including provision of scholarships and student loans with flexible repayment terms as a way of encouraging youth to opt for vocational and technical education. In addition to university education, Botswana has also made a deliberate decision to build a specialised university of science and technology, the Botswana Institute of Technology and post graduate programmes at the Botswana College of Agriculture as well as the establishment of the Innovation Hub and Food

Research and Technology Centre under the Ministry of Infrastructure, Environment and Technology. The expectation is to increase access to information and communication technology, including research and innovation...

Mr President,

In terms of public infrastructure, Botswana has developed the National Human Resource Development Strategy, which is being implemented by a multi-disciplinary Council, which I am privileged to be a member of, with special focus on building strong science and technology infrastructure, in order to enhance local capacity to research and develop technologies for the benefit of humanity.

The legal environment has also been reformed to promote any amendments relevant to gender equality. The Botswana Mines and Minerals Act was amended to allow women as equals to men to work in mining and mineral processing. The Employment Act was amended in 2010 to give equal opportunities at work, to work for women, and rights. Finally, Botswana signed the Decent Work Decade programme with the ILO on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011, which will be implemented through the tripartite structure, thereby ensuring equal access to work, equal pay and social protection for women and men. Botswana will include implementation of further Programme giving the necessary attention to the elimination of gender stereotypes.

With these measures, Botswana is providing support to the implementation of the outcome of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, as added strand to the Behind Plan of Action, and the Millennium Development Goals.

I thank you, Mr President.

honesty and integrity. China under the leadership of President Xi Jinping has become a major player in the global economy. It is contributing significantly to the world's economic growth and development.

Mr. President,

China's leadership is committed to building a harmonious society. This means that the government is working to ensure that all citizens have access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and employment. The Chinese government is also working to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

China's economy is growing rapidly, and it is becoming increasingly important in the global economy. The Chinese government is working to develop its infrastructure, particularly in transportation and energy, to support this growth. The Chinese government is also working to develop its technology sector, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence and robotics. The Chinese government is also working to develop its technology sector, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence and robotics.

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Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

President of the People's Republic of China

Xi Jinping