

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA



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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

Mr. Chairperson

Allow me to join other delegations that have taken the floor before me in

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.

Since Botswana acceded to the Convention in 1996, there has been

[REDACTED]

with food and energy crises and climate change continue to undermine our

efforts to empower women. In addition, we are faced with a serious challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, it is essential that concerted efforts must be taken to assist developing countries to build capacity in response to the crises taking into account the needs and priorities of women .

Mr. Chairperson,

We note with appreciation the achievements of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, while recognizing the continuing existence of discriminatory laws and practices against women throughout the world. In the same vein, we acknowledge and commend the work that UNIFEM continues to undertake in a broad array of areas of women empowerment including poverty eradication, violence against women, as

new entity will bring an important shift to the work of the UN in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this connection, my delegation stands ready to work with other Member States to finalize the

remaining details of the new entity.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, Chairman, I wish to thank you for your leadership and for the