



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**140TH INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION ASSEMBLY
AND RELATED MEETINGS**

APRIL, 2019

DOHA, QATAR

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA PARLIAMENT LEADER OF
DELEGATION**

HON. BOTLOGILE M. TSHIRELETSO, MP

*“Parliaments as Platforms to Enhance Education for Peace, Security and the
Rule of Law”*

The President of the 140th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly
Your Excellencies
Hon. Speakers
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We are honored as Parliament of Botswana to once again join you at this important Assembly, to share and echo our experiences and contribute to shaping a peaceful and secure world where the rule of law reigns. In some nations, peace still remain an illusive milestone hence our obligation is to highlight this global challenge and dialogue on solutions for a better world.
2. Ladies and Gentlemen, Sustainable Development Goal number sixteen talks about Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. The Goal calls on societies to consciously devise sustainable means of co-existence with one another. As Parliaments, we have the responsibility to provide accessible and quality education to all citizens because education helps people to understand the world, participate in social life and live more meaningful and peaceful lives. It also has an important role in promoting the rule of law, a culture of lawfulness, peace and security.
3. When Botswana attained self-governance and independence in 1966, education became a tool for empowerment and liberation. Various institutions provided a seedbed for educational development, cross-pollination of experiences and

benchmarks on politics as well as governance and peace. In post-Independence Botswana, the leaders envisioned a unifying education system that provided access to all and supported social harmony amongst the different ethnic groupings. The attempt was to unite the nation and maintain peaceful co-existence.

4. Since then, education has been amongst our priorities as evidenced by the provision of free 12 years of formal schooling to pupils and assistance for tertiary education; in the form of loans and grants. We have also ratified the National Vision 2036 in line with Agenda 2030 and put in place a National Development Plan, National Economic Stimulus Plan and Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan aligned to SDG No.4.
5. For so many cosecutive years, my Parliament has ensured that education gets the largest share of the budget to ensure improved access, better infrastructure and a dynamic curricular that responds to current and future demands.
6. Mr. President, voter education is also key, hence the need to be incorporated into a country's educational system. Our Electoral Commissions, political parties and Governments must therefore be vigorous in this aspect as it determines whether the ballot will be peacefull or anarchy.

7. Our Legislature continue to pass laws and policies which have ensured that everyone have access to quality education. The revised National Policy on Education of 1994, The Children`s Act of 2009, as well as the Inclusive Education Policy of 2010, amongst others are some of the laws that Parliament of Botswana came up with to ensure that it maximizes its demographic devidend and potential to take its place in the modern world.

8. As I conclude, I wish to thank the 140th IPU Assembly for reminding us that we cannot attain Global peace if our Individual Governments are not willing to invest in it. We cannot talk of the 4th Industrial Revolution and transformation to knowledge based societies without accepting that such developments entail peaceful co-existence.

9. The failure of Parliaments to provide platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law suggests that our efforts as Legislators are far from enough and we must come up with effective legislation to address these gaps.

10. **Lastly Mr. President,** I stand here to pledge my country`s support and commitment to this noble course.

Thank you