



**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY THE DEPUTY STATISTICIAN GENERAL (DSG), STATISTICS BOTSWANA**

**AT THE**

**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SDG 6.4 SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**HELD AT**

**AVANI HOTEL,**

**GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

**2 APRIL 2019**

**Director of Ceremonies,  
FAO Representative, Botswana Mr René Czudek,  
Representatives of Development Partners,  
Senior Government and Non-Government Officials,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Media Practitioners,**

**Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen, A very good morning to you all.**

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this important workshop on SDG 6.4- on increased water use efficiency across all sectors and ensuring sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030.
2. Our gathering today, is indeed a clear indication that as Southern Africa we are working together to find sustainable and durable solutions that recognize the interdependence between not only our countries, but also with all life on earth. My great gratitude goes to FAO for hosting this workshop.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. Statistics Botswana as the custodian of the National Statistical System is mandated to coordinate implementation and reporting of SDGs in the country. Its role in monitoring of this ambitious agenda to transform the world cannot be overemphasized. Statistics Botswana's gigantic role is to guide the production of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data needed to monitor and evaluate the progress the

country is making towards achieving the SDGs and doing so in a manner that ensures that “no one is left behind”.

4. It is worth highlighting that, Statistics Botswana designed a new strategic direction for the entire National Statistical System (NSS) called the Botswana Strategy for the Development of Statistics (BSDS) 2015-2020, in collaboration with various stakeholders with the aim of strengthening the NSS to enable it to provide more reliable statistics for informing development processes. The strategy has undergone a mid-term review to determine progress achieved and possible re-alignment to changing national, regional and global development issues such as this agenda. As sectors are being enrolled into the BSDS, the SDGs are being factored into this so that they recognize the existence of the indicators for measurability.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5. Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the key outcomes achieved through Statistics Botswana’s leadership. The process of assessing the SDG indicators in Botswana for their measurability spearheaded by my organization was completed in July 2016.
6. Statistics Botswana sits in all committees of the SDGs in the country, these are the National Steering Committee for all SDGs and the various SDGs Technical Taskforces. To date, the Domesticated SDGs Indicators Framework has been loaded onto the Statistics Botswana website with:
  - 17 Sustainable Development Goals;
  - 169 targets; and
  - the 230+ indicators
7. In order to support the development of national targets, Statistics Botswana, established baseline data for the SDGs. Compilation of a set of baseline (2016) data was completed in December 2018. The SDGs

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was developed through a Consultant who was engaged by UNFPA, but worked with Statistics Botswana. At present, the framework is undergoing stakeholder consultative processes.

8. To date, the SDGs national work plan for 2018/19 has been developed and implemented and the 2019/20 plan is being developed . A number of outputs have also been accomplished:

**Output 1:** There has been enhanced capacity of the MFED through the SDGs National Secretariat to ably coordinate and lead the implementation of the SDGs in Botswana.

**Output 2:** Enhanced capacities of sector ministries and departments at national and sub-national levels to plan for the localization and mainstreaming of the SDGs in their sector plans and budget.

**Output 3:** A comprehensive advocacy, sensitization and awareness drive undertaken across the country on the SDGs, targets and indicators to ensure no one is left behind.

**Output 4:** Enhanced support provided to policy development, knowledge products, South-South & Triangular Cooperation, human development, and data for development on the SDGs to inform evidence-based planning, monitoring, reporting on the SDGs, and related strategic interventions.

9. I wish to inform you that Statistics Botswana dissemination platforms, particularly the dashboard accessible through the Statistics Botswana website is expected to form part of a national SDG data flow system that is being developed to receive data from data producers and share it with Botswana users and the international statistical system.

**Director of Ceremony,**

10. A substantial number of these SDGs are environment related, hence the production of environment statistics as guided by the United Nations

Framework for Development of Environment Statistics is critical to monitor their implementation. The attainment of the 2030 Agenda entirely depends on effective monitoring of the set targets through the officially agreed indicators.

11. The focus of today's workshop is on SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and specifically SDG target 6.4, which states, "By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity".
12. Statistics Botswana is working in partnership with the Ministry of Land Development, Water and Sanitation Services and other key stakeholders in monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.4 through the relevant indicators, for which the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is the United Nations custodian agency.
13. Botswana participated in the initial technical workshop organized by FAO held from 18 – 21 July 2017 to discuss methods of monitoring and reporting on the Goal. The workshop was a welcome development as it shed light on the development of indicators and institutional mechanisms for reporting. SDG 6.4 is particularly important for Botswana, which is a semi-arid country that is prone to recurring drought; a situation exacerbated by the emergence of climate change. As Southern African countries, we can attest to the negative effects of this global phenomena. Therefore finding water usage efficiencies of sectors is of paramount importance to our countries.
14. To this end, Statistics Botswana as a Focal Point for SDG 6.4, coordinates the updating of the AQUASTAT questionnaire with relevant stakeholders, which is used to build the database to monitor implementation of SDG 6.4. Further work has also been done on the templates for developing the two indicators of SDG 6.4.

15. A number of challenges have been experienced in monitoring this goal. Firstly, data needed in monitoring is spread across various entities dealing with management and use of water; as such data sources are multi-disciplinary and interest is from diverse quarters. Therefore in order to effectively monitor and report on SDG 6.4, national coordination is of paramount importance. Secondly, most data needed for development of the indicators is administrative in nature and comes with some inherent challenges such as data gaps and misaligned categorization or classification. Technical expertise for calculation of indicators and collection of data is also necessary and such skills are inadequate.
16. This workshop therefore comes at an opportune time to guide and support particularly in these areas in order to build the requisite capacity of Southern African sub-regional countries to effectively monitor and report on SDG 6.4. Let me express my sincere gratitude to FAO for conducting this workshop.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

17. Allow me to conclude by welcoming you all to Botswana and wishing you an enjoyable stay. I am confident that the discussions in this workshop will be enriched by the various experiences which are to be shared by the countries represented. I would implore all participants to make full use of the opportunity accorded us by FAO, to facilitate effective monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.4.
18. I wish you all fruitful deliberations and a successful workshop.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With that, I declare this workshop officially opened.

**Thank you.**