



**SIXTH REGIONAL GENDER STATISTICS  
WORKSHOP  
GABORONE, BOTSWANA 8-12 JULY 2024**

**Welcome Remarks**

**By Bridget John PS -MYSC**



**JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

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(UNECA)

Acting Director, STATAFRIC-African Union Commission

Regional Director, UN Women: Eastern Southern Africa Regional Office

Regional Director, UN Women Western Central Africa Regional Office

African Development Bank Representative

Development Partners resident in Botswana

Representative of the host country the Government of Botswana

Esteemed delegates from different regions representing government  
institutions

The private sector

Civil Society Organisations representatives

The Media

Distinguished delegates

### **Good morning!**

1. On behalf of the Government of Botswana and the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, it is my honor to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Gender Statistics Workshop held under the theme: "**Pulling Together for Gender Statistics**".
2. The theme is a call to collective action, a recognition that financing numbers is not the responsibility of a single entity, but a shared commitment.

3. This forum therefore, presents a valuable opportunity for us to:
  - **Share best practices** whereupon we can learn from each other's experiences in collecting, analysing, and disseminating gender statistics.
  - **Identify challenges and solutions** thereby allowing us to explore common obstacles we face and collaborate on innovative solutions to overcome them.
  - **Strengthen regional collaboration:** by fostering stronger regional ties and working together to build a more robust ecosystem for gender data in our continent.
4. Let me on this note express my profound appreciation to the UN Women, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the Southern African Development Community for jointly organising this important forum.
5. I am aware that the conference brings together delegates from different countries within Africa to share their expertise and foster cross-pollination of ideas. This inter-disciplinary dialogue is crucial for advancing gender data collection, analysis, and utilization. This will enable us to gain new knowledge and theoretical advancements to inform the future research agenda and guide practical applications.
6. Ladies and gentlemen, Gender is close to my heart and a crucial mandate in our Ministry. It is for this reason that reliable and accessible gender statistics is fundamental to our programming. It is

inevitable that statistics and data provide the critical evidence base for:

- **Understanding gender gaps** as data illuminates the disparities women and girls face in areas such as education, health, economic participation, and political representation.
- **Formulating effective policies:** Gender-sensitive statistics inform the development of targeted policies and programs that address the specific needs of women and girls.
- **Monitoring progress:** Data allows us to track progress towards gender equality goals and identify areas where further action is required.

### **Director of Ceremonies**

7. It is my understanding that the workshop will assess the advancement made by African countries towards achieving commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Programme on Gender Statistics; contribute to the report of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission for Africa and work towards a shared vision and roadmap for strengthening the production, dissemination, and utilization of gender statistics in Africa.
8. I trust that this workshop will lead to the development of more robust, inclusive and actionable gender data that ultimately informs policies and interventions for achieving gender equality. Over the next five (5) days, we will engage in insightful discussions, explore cutting-edge

approaches, and forge partnerships to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

9. My Ministry supports the generation of statistical data for informed policy and programming as gender equality cannot be achieved where there is no data to support interventions. I therefore, note with appreciation that without this data, policies may be based on assumptions or biases, ultimately failing to achieve their intended impact on women and girls and men and boys.
10. Director of Ceremonies, let me at this point share some of the achievements we have made as a country in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.
11. According to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2024, Botswana is positioned at **57** out of 146 countries with a total score of **0.73**. This score places Botswana at position 11 in Sub Saharan Africa, marking a significant accomplishment towards inclusion.
12. Botswana is also amongst top scorers in Educational Attainment and Health Survival at scores of **1.00** and **0.98** respectively. The country comes 2<sup>nd</sup> on Economic Participation and Opportunity with a total score of **0.85**. The country however still faces challenges in Political Attainment ranking 125<sup>th</sup> with a score of **0.088**.
13. In 2018, we undertook a National Relationship Study being the second country in the SADC Region to do such a Study; and the first

to do a repeat Study on Gender Based Violence (GBV). The 2012 Gender Based Violence Indicators Study revealed that **67%** of women who participated had suffered some form of violence in their lifetime whilst **44%** men admitted to have perpetrated GBV. The 2018 Study on the other hand revealed that **37%** women and **21%** men have suffered GBV perpetrated by either sex.

14. Noting the negative impact of GBV in our socio-economic development, Government adopted several measures such as enacting laws that introduced stiff penalties including life sentence for sexual offences, establishing specialised GBV courts and setting structures such as District Gender Committees to provide guidance on gender responsive policies and programmes at community level.

15. Special measures continue to be adopted to address specific issues that impede attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as we move towards 2030.

16. Distinguished delegates, by monitoring gender indicators over time, we can track progress towards achieving gender equality goals enshrined in national and international frameworks. This allows for course correction and strategic resource allocation where needed.

17. Director of Ceremonies, in complementing government, International organizations and donor agencies initiative to provide financial

support for data collection, capacity building, and technical assistance is a welcome development.

18. Let me conclude by sharing this quote from Graça Machel: "***Gender equality is the goal that will help abolish poverty, that will create more equal economies, fairer societies and happier men, women and children.***"

19. Finally, let me once again extend our warm welcome to you all. I trust that you will enjoy your stay in ***Botswana, Our Pride, Your Destination!***

20. I thank you for your audience and wish you a productive week of active engagement!