



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. B. MAPHOI KOMANYANE
FIRST SECRETARY**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS - GENEVA**

**AT THE NINETY NINTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE
ADMISSION OF BOTSWANA AS MEMBER OF THE IOM**

- GENEVA -

29th November 2010

(Please Check Against Delivery)

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
BOTSWANA AT THE 99TH COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
(IOM)**

29TH NOVEMBER 2010

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairman,

Director General,

1. Let me start by conveying greetings from the Honourable Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Mr. Peter Letlhogonolo Siele, and his sincere apologies for not being able to attend this session in person.
2. The Minister would have loved to be present at this historic session, but due to other unforeseen pressing commitments, he has not been able to make it.
3. May I also congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for ascending to the noble seat of Chairperson of the 99th Session the Council of the International Organization for Migration. We trust that under your capable leadership, the Council will successfully deliberate to a fruitful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation would like to convey its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome to the Organization. We also congratulate the delegations of Lesotho, the Central African Republic, Timor Leste and Swaziland on their admission as Members of the IOM. Our congratulations also go to the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the Federation of Christian Organizations for International Volunteer Service and Scalabrini International Migration Network on their admission as IOM Observers.

5. Botswana presented her request for membership to the Organization on the 2nd November 2010 following a series of consultations between the Director General and Botswana's leadership over the past few months.

6. Our admission to the membership of the IOM is a positive development as it presents ample opportunities for the development of our country. The membership will also afford Botswana an opportunity to contribute to the global migration agenda as well as offering us space for cooperation and collaboration, including through the IOM's Funding Facility.

7. We, therefore, wish to pledge our commitment and cooperation in the execution of the mandate, goals and objectives of this Organization.

8. Botswana is well aware of the obligations related to her membership to the IOM and will ensure that we remain a Member in good standing.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Let me, once again, take this opportunity to thank fellow members of this Organization for the warm welcome. We will be actively participating in the deliberations so as to ensure a fruitful outcome of this session.

10. I thank you.