

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE  
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL  
RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND SPECIAL  
RAPPORTEUR ON HOUSING**

**(MONDAY 4 MARCH 2013, GENEVA)**

Mr. President,

1. My delegation thanks the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for his comprehensive report, and associates itself with the statement read by Gabon on behalf of the Africa Group.
2. We appreciate the Special Rapporteur's focus on the protection of women's right to food. It has been observed that women in general, are the most affected by poverty and economic marginalization.
3. This is caused by a number of factors such as legal and cultural norms that restrict their access to, and control of productive resources.

4. In realizing the importance of women in any society, and the need to address their social and economic status, my Government, has put in place poverty eradication policies and programmes aimed at availing opportunities to everyone, including women.

5. Such programmes include, among others, the Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD). This is aimed at increasing production and promotion of food security at household and national levels, and facilitates access to credit.

Mr. President,

6. We also thank the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing for her comprehensive report.

7. Botswana is fully committed to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. A number of measures and initiatives have been put in place to enable every citizen to secure shelter, and even improve the

existing ones. We believe it is important to provide decent housing and better living conditions.

8. Some of the measures taken include among others, the introduction of a Self-Help Housing Agency (SHAA), aimed at availing loans at very minimal and affordable interest rates to Batswana; the Housing Scheme for Poverty Eradication; and the President's Housing Appeal for the Needy. These have ensured that everyone has proper shelter.

Mr. President

9. The Special Rapporteur mentioned that land management and administration could have positive impacts on solving land disputes and strengthening tenure security.

10. There is therefore a need to allocate land in a more equitable manner through proper planning policies, laws and regulations. These will contribute to tenure security and adequate standard of living.

11. In conclusion, Botswana supports the work of the two Special Rapporteurs and is committed to the realization of the right to food and to adequate housing.

12. I thank you for your attention.