

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)  
Geneva, 10-12 June 2020**

**Discussion on “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and  
the benefits of international research collaboration in this context”**

Statement submitted by

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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**SPEECH**

**BY**

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**AT THE**

**23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL  
MEETING**

***TOPIC: HARNESSING FRONTIER AND SPACE TECHNOLOGIES  
FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)***

**THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020**

1. Good afternoon

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. Harnessing frontier and space technologies for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) centers around food security and agriculture, health applications, access to telecommunication, disaster risk reduction and human crises, natural resources and environment management.

3. Chair, due to the COVID-19 pandemic Government of Botswana has undertaken to significantly reduce tariffs for data to enable access by large percentage of the society. COVID-19 and subsequent lock down led to abrupt closure of schools and businesses leading to increased use of internet for service deliveries. This has not been affordable because internet services in Botswana are comparatively expensive. This would then lead to some members of the population failing to utilize the facilities.

4. Botswana is also advanced in the preparation of space science strategy to cater for all aspects of frontier and space technologies. There are numerous players in the space technologies and these include but not limited to universities, research and development institutions, health

- and wellness sector, agriculture, environment, communications, and others.
5. As a country, Botswana is a member of a global network lead by South Africa called square kilometer array which seeks to set up the world's largest telescope. Collaboration in regional networks is also critical.
  6. Chair, it must be clear to all of us as to how Least Developed and Developing countries would be helped to ensure that in the spirit of SDGs, there is no one left behind in the gains that would be accrued from frontier and space technologies. The United Nations through Commission on Science and Technology for Development should ensure that through these space technologies sustainable developments are realized by all communities. This could be by emphasizing collaborations and partnerships.
  7. Botswana is also harnessing these technologies in various sectors to develop sustainable employment for citizens. I implore the UN and its Member States to take a cue from COVID -19 pandemic response and realize that we need each other if we seek to advance in our developments.
  8. I thank you.