STI Policy Review of Botswana and STI Foresight of Botswana

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STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY FEATURES

- First UNCTAD STIP review to incorporate a foresight exercise, and the first review financed fully by a beneficiary country
- Close collaboration with Botswana Department for Research, Science and Technology (DRST)
- Multistakeholder approach, mixed methods (including foresight tools: horizon scanning, questionnaires, workshops and scenario planning)
- COVID-19 pandemic created implementation challenges
- Government was restructured in May 2022 as drafting of reports finished, but assessment is not materially changed
STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY FINDINGS

- Strong growth performance, but slow structural transformation – a central national development goal
- Strong national potential, but weak innovation capacity
- Good progress on education, but more needed in STEM, technical skills, soft skills, higher education
- R&D and STI systems highly fragmented, many silos, weak coordination, inadequate prioritization (STI foresight’s main goal to help establish national STI priorities)
- Institutional governance of STI is inadequate; balance of policy focus heavy on R&D, weak on T and I; the 2011 RSTI policy is now outdated
- RSTI policy implementation is slow and partial, M&E inadequate
- Financing for STI inadequate and GERD is below national target
- Private sector engagement/support are weak
STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve STEM education, technical and soft skills
- Strengthen institutional governance of STI
- Rebalance focus on S, T, I + revise RSTI policy + improve M&E
- Establish clear national STI priorities
- Increase financing for R&D, innovation
- Increase engagement + support to private sector
- Enhance promotion of digital transformation via smartbots
- Upgrade international STI cooperation efforts
- Strengthen R&D system, research management and use
- Add focus on new/frontier technologies
- Build STI policy capacity in key areas
- Harness STI across sustainable development challenges
THANK YOU!