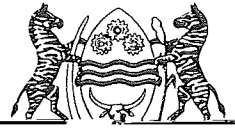


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



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Mr. Chairman

1 Let me start by congratulating you on the assumption of the

that will equip the youth with requisite skills to fully exploit their talents to

improve their own livelihoods and those of their communities.

6. The major challenge facing the country today is the high number of

Mr. Chairman,

9. HIV and AIDS scourge still remains a challenge in Botswana with an estimated 17.1% of the total population living with the virus in 2010. The disease has affected the most sexually active and productive segment of the population, that is the youth. In 2010, it was estimated that 25% of the youth were living with the virus. However, recent statistics shows that the prevalence of HIV and AIDS among the youth and adolescents is declining. This is a clear demonstration that the continuing campaigns on behaviour change, are having desired impact on the youth and adolescent population.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Botswana recognizes that access to reproductive health services is essential for the health and development of adolescents and youth. The Government recently developed an Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Implementation Strategy for 2012 to 2016. The strategy provides a framework to enhance young people's access to sexual and reproductive

with the active support of civil society has embarked on a programme to