

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

**MR. LESEDI N. THEMA
FIRST SECRETARY**

**ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 108: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 6 OCTOBER 2005

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Southern African Development Community Member States of Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Our congratulations go out to you upon your election, and also to the Bureau. SADC Member States assure you of their full support and cooperation. We are confident that your vast experience will guide this intricate negotiation to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

Much of SADC's roots emanate from our individual and collective struggle for liberation against colonial and racist regimes, and in our efforts towards the maintenance of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our Member States. Our Defense strategy against such oppression was encompassed in bodies such as the Inter State Defense and Security Committee (ISDSC) since 1977, which represented the former Southern African Development Coordination Conferences (SADCC's) forum for defense, and security cooperation. Today following the establishment of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, we aim to realign and strengthen our collective security capacity, in order to build the capability to tackle old threats as well as emerging threats.

We are cognizant of the threat of terrorism, and we categorically and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. We however view the scourges of poverty, hunger, disease and inter and intra state conflicts as the fiercest threats to peace and security that our region is faced with.

SADC supports the continental and international efforts against terrorism embodied in structures such as the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism in Algiers, and the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, which recognizes that terrorism is inherently a trans-national problem to which we must all be committed to combating.

We would like to add our voice of support for the call to reach an agreement on, and the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during this Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly, as prescribed by Heads of State and Government at the recently concluded World Summit.

In this regard, a consensually agreed upon legal definition of terrorism should be concluded taking into account the right to self determination in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Furthermore, we urge that careful consideration be given to deleting the exclusion clauses regarding armed forces when negotiating language on the remaining articles.

Mr. Chairman,

The SADC Member States would also like to urge that negotiations be conducted in good faith and that the consideration of issues should be done in a comprehensive manner. We therefore support the call for an international summit under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.