



STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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AT THE FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CHIEFS OF

POLICE SUMMIT (UNCOPS 2026)

SESSION 3: ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL

COOPERATION TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL

CHALLENGES

SALUTATIONS

- ✓ Excellencies,
- ✓ Under-Secretary-General,
- ✓ Distinguished Chiefs of Police and Gendarmerie,
- ✓ Heads of Delegation,
- ✓ Senior Representatives of International and Regional Organisations,
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is both an honour and a privilege to address this Fifth United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Botswana.
2. At the outset, I wish to commend the United Nations for convening this important Summit at a defining moment for international peace and security. UNCOPS continues to provide an indispensable platform for strategic dialogue, collective reflection, and renewed commitment to strengthening the contribution of policing to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the sustenance of peace.
3. We meet at a time when the global security landscape is undergoing profound transformation. Transnational organised crime, cyber-enabled criminality, trafficking in persons, terrorism, environmental crime, illicit financial flows, and the proliferation of illicit arms continue to undermine peace, stability, and development across regions. The increasing intersection between conflict, insecurity, displacement, climate-related vulnerabilities, and violence against women and girls

presents additional complexities requiring innovative and integrated responses.

4. These challenges do not recognise national boundaries. They exploit the very systems that connect our societies: technology, trade networks, financial systems, and human mobility. As criminal enterprises become increasingly sophisticated, adaptive, and interconnected, our responses must evolve accordingly.
5. The Republic of Botswana firmly believes that international cooperation is no longer optional; it is imperative. No nation, irrespective of its capabilities or resources, can effectively address contemporary transnational threats in isolation. Our collective security is intrinsically linked. Consequently, our success will depend on our ability to strengthen partnerships founded upon mutual trust, shared responsibility, respect for sovereignty, adherence to international law, and an unwavering commitment to human rights and the rule of law.
6. From an African perspective, regional cooperation has increasingly become a cornerstone of effective policing. Through the collaborative efforts of the African Union, AFRIPOL, INTERPOL, the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO), Regional Economic Communities, and various bilateral and multilateral arrangements, African law enforcement agencies continue to

demonstrate a shared determination to confront emerging security threats through coordinated action.

7. Within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Member States have strengthened cooperation through intelligence sharing, joint operations, coordinated border management initiatives, capacity-building programmes, and collaborative approaches aimed at combating transnational organised crime.
8. Botswana also continues to strengthen bilateral relations with its neighbouring and regional partner countries, through the establishment of Binational Commissions, which deliberate on strategic economic issues including public security.
9. To this end, Botswana wishes to highlight three strategic priorities towards enhancing international collaboration in the fight against transnational organized crime:
 - ✓ First - strengthening timely, secure, and actionable information sharing among national, regional, and international law enforcement agencies remains essential. Enhanced interoperability and effective use of existing international policing mechanisms will significantly improve our collective ability to prevent and disrupt transnational criminal activities.

- ✓ Second - sustained investment in capacity building, innovation, and technological advancement is critical. Police services must be equipped with the necessary skills, capabilities, and resources to address emerging threats effectively, particularly those facilitated by rapidly evolving technologies.
- ✓ Third - international policing cooperation must continue to uphold human rights, accountability, gender responsiveness, and the rule of law. Professional, people-centred policing remains fundamental to building public trust and achieving sustainable peace.

10. **Your Excellencies**, Botswana welcomes the ongoing discussions around the future of United Nations peace operations and the development of a renewed vision for United Nations Police.

11. As a country, we reaffirm our commitment to contributing to international peace and security through strengthened partnerships with the United Nations, regional organisations, and national law enforcement institutions.

12. The responsibility for safeguarding peace and security cannot rest with the United Nations alone. The complexity of today's challenges demands an inclusive and collaborative approach that brings together international organisations,

regional bodies, national institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector, and communities themselves.

13. The threats that confront us are collective in nature, and therefore our response must equally be collective. UNCOPS 2026 indeed serves as a catalyst for renewed commitment, enhanced solidarity, and strengthened international cooperation.

14. The challenges we face are shared. Our response must therefore be collective. Together, we can strengthen international peace and security. We can build resilient institutions capable of responding to transnational challenges, ensuring that no nation faces these threats alone.

15. Botswana remains committed to working with all partners to strengthen international policing cooperation in pursuit of a more peaceful, secure, and resilient world.

I thank you.

PULA!