



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

BOTSWANA CONDEMNS THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY CATALONIA

Gaborone, 11th October 2017 – The Government of the Republic of Botswana regrets the illegal signing of a unilateral declaration of Independence by the Spanish region of Catalonia. Botswana wishes to underscore the fact that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country must be respected not only by other countries, but by its nationals as well.

Botswana recognises that Catalonia has been part of the Spanish State for centuries, with its own distinct language and culture, and has enjoyed broad autonomy under the Spanish Constitution. The Government of Botswana does not support the dismemberment of a country that is not negotiated and agreed. In this day and age, we expect people in nations to strengthen their unity and not engage in divisive actions based on race, ethnicity religion or language.

In view of the challenges that currently confront humankind, it is critical that nation states should more than ever uphold the spirit of unity in diversity, and not to engage in divisive actions. The unification of Germany is an excellent example that should be embraced by progressive and peace loving nations, if global peace and tranquillity is to be realized.

In line with the principles of international law, the declaration of independence by any section of a given society should be attained through a negotiated settlement. That is why Botswana does not recognise Kosovo. As a country that cherishes the ethos of unity and togetherness, Botswana will therefore not recognise any country which attained or attains independence through unilateral declaration.

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