



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

Gaborone, 2nd June 2017: The Government of the Republic of Botswana wishes to express its regret regarding the decision of the Government of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

This unfortunate decision is a reversal of an important milestone reached during the Climate Change Summit held in Paris, in December 2015. The Paris Accord, which to date has been ratified by 147 State Parties, remains a laudable commitment by the international community aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in order to achieve sustainable development.

Considering the critical leadership role played by the United States of America in the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, the decision to withdraw at this stage will definitely have adverse consequences on its effective implementation.

We, therefore, commend the position recently taken by some advanced economies like China, Russia, Germany, France, Italy and the European Union (EU) bloc, as well as other countries for their unequivocal assurance to honour their commitments to the Paris Climate Change Accord.

Similarly, we commend the Mayors of over 60 large cities in the United States of America, as well as the Governors and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of large Corporations for demonstrating support for the Paris Agreement.

As Botswana, we wish to re-affirm our unwavering commitment to honour our obligations under the Paris Accord. We would therefore, like to urge the Government of the United States of America to reconsider its position, and continue playing its rightful role within the international community in saving our planet for future generations.

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