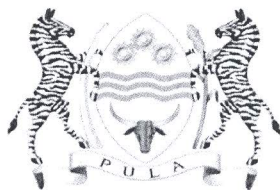


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Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
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GABORONE, BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

HONOURABLE MINISTER DOW ATTENDS THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ACP AFRICA GROUP OF STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EUROPEAN COMMISSION) ON THE AFRICA REGIONAL PROTOCOL

GABORONE 2 May 2019: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that the Honourable Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Unity Dow, will travel to Mbabane, eSwatini on 2nd May 2019, to attend the Ministerial meeting between the Africa Region and the European Union which will be held from the 2nd – 4th May 2019.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow for consultation between the African States within the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and Mr. Neven Mimica, the European Union (EU) Chief Negotiator and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, on the framework of the African Regional Protocol.

The Protocol is expected to guide Africa-EU relations when the current Cotonou Agreement, which governs ACP-EU relations, expires in 2020. Through the future partnership, the EU and ACP countries will seek closer political cooperation on the world stage. In this regard, the Africa Regional Protocol will be an integral part of the new legally binding, fair and balanced partnership Agreement.

Botswana fully subscribes to the idea of a strengthened ACP-EU partnership agreement, geared towards sustainable development, moving away from aid. Furthermore, it subscribes to the position that Regional Protocols should augment and be considered as annexes to the main agreement and architecture of the ACP-EU relationship.

The Honourable Minister, accompanied by Senior Officials, is expected back home on the 4th May 2019.

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