

[For immediate release]



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
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PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION TO ATTEND THE EXTRA-ORDINARY AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT IN NIAMEY, NIGER AS WELL AS, THE 19TH COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AND THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA FREEDOM IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM.

Gaborone, 2 June 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 Niamey, Niger on 2nd July 2019 to attend the 35th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 12th Extra-Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly. The African Union Meetings will be held under the theme "*The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.*"

The AU High level meetings will be as follows:

- a) 3rd July 2019 – Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063;
- b) 4th - 5th July 2019- The Executive Council;
- c) 7th July 2019 – 37th Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) – AUDA/NEPAD; and
- d) 7th July 2019 - 12th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The Executive Council is expected to consider the African Union Budget for the Year 2020; the New African Union Structure, as well as the Reports of the African Union High Representative for Financing of the Union and the Peace Fund.

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Following the AU Summit meetings, the Honourable Dr. Unity Dow will proceed to London, United Kingdom to attend the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting taking place on 10th July 2019.

The Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting will consider the status of implementation of outcomes of the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), as well as preparations for the CHOGM 2020 and the Commonwealth 70th anniversary Celebration.

Whilst in London, the Minister will also attend the Global Conference for Media Freedom co-hosted by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Canada from 10th to 11th July 2019. The Conference is part of an international campaign responding to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres', call to *"protect journalists and media workers, and to create the conditions they need to do their essential work, and to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of attacks on them"*.

The Honourable Minister is expected back in Botswana on 13th July 2019.

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