

UNITED NATIONS



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Botswana

News flashes from UN

UN Botswana inducts Foreign Affairs staff

Gaborone: 26 May 2005: An induction programme jointly organized by the UN system and the government of Botswana commenced today in the UN Conference Room at the UN Place, to orient the new Foreign Service Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Service and International Cooperation. The first session was facilitated by Mr. Bjørn Førde, the UN Resident Coordinator, who welcomed the participants to the training session which is part of a series of training sessions planned for them over the next six weeks.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Foerde stressed that the UN belongs to member states and it is therefore a privilege for the UN Country Team to welcome the participants to a series induction seminars, where they will meet the different members of the UN Family. He further expressed the hope that once the participants have gained a deeper understanding of the operations of the UN, the government of Botswana will be able to utilize the resources of the UN even better.

In his presentation the RC took the participants through the various aspects of the UN system, including its role, structure and the on-going UN reform process. He underlined the UN's

overarching goal of fostering and maintaining international peace and security as symbolized by the General Assembly, where 190 heads of states meet annually to discuss and try to resolve socio-economic and political issues by consensus. And all nations regardless of geographic and demographic size are entitled to one vote each on the basis of the principle of equality.



Mr Bjørn Førde the UN Resident Coordinator, lecturing to Foreign Affairs staff

He went on to say that the year 2005 is regarded as critical for the UN organization both within the context of its lifespan since 1945 and the Millennium Declaration in 2000. As a consequence the upcoming General Assembly in September will be

dedicated to a review of the achievements of the UN as an organization and the status of attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by member states. The summit is officially called the Millennium + 5 Summit. He pointed out that human rights have always been the center piece of UN activities as seen from the UN Charter itself.



Some of the participants attending the induction programme

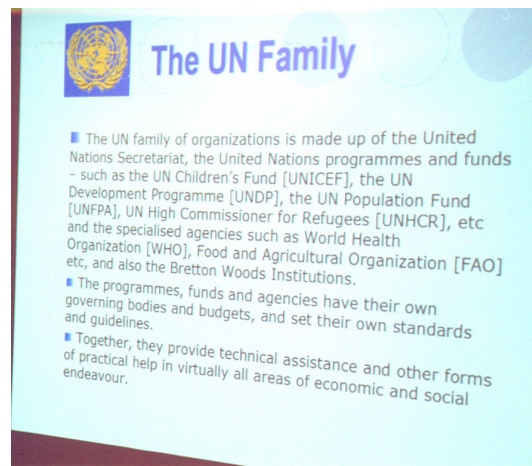
Explaining the use of the phrase **UN family** the RC said that all UN agencies, funds and programmes stand on the UN Charter and share common values and therefore the word family is more appropriate than the word system in describing the UN.

The participants were introduced to the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) documents, which form the basis for the UN support to the government and people of Botswana. Other reports

relevant to the UN's work were shared with the participants.

At the end of his presentation, participants asked questions on various aspects of the UN. Mr. P. Kenosi the Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs attended the opening session.

The next induction seminars will feature presentations by the UN Heads of agencies resident in Botswana on their mandates and activities in country.



Some presentations

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