

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

**ORIGINAL:
ENGLISH**

Seventy-third session

Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, 28 August – 1 September 2023

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Welcome to Botswana: Home to the Okavango Delta.



Dear Participant,

The Government of the Republic of Botswana welcomes you to Gaborone for the Seventy-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC73), held from 28 August to 1 September 2023 at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC).

Please, find below some useful general information on travel to the city of Gaborone in Botswana and the logistical arrangements in place for the smooth conduct of the RC73 session. Click [here](#) to consult the official RC73 webpage.

VISAS

All citizens of Commonwealth member countries do not require a visa to enter Botswana, except those from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Foreign nationals whose countries have signed a Visa Abolition Agreement with Botswana are also not required to apply for a visa. The list of countries that require a visa to enter Botswana is available at <https://evisa.gov.bw>.

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into Botswana. The passport booklet must also contain at least two (2) blank pages before entry into Botswana.

For participants from countries where Botswana does not have consular representation, a visa may be obtained online (consult the website: <https://evisa.gov.bw>). It is recommended that participants apply for visas prior to departure as this may be a requirement for travel by certain airlines.

Entry visas may be also obtained at border posts and are valid for a maximum of 14 days. A support letter will be availed upon request to participants who opt for a visa on arrival. Special arrangements will be made at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport for courtesy visas to be issued to delegates. For immigration formalities at the airport, photographs will be taken of persons who are entering the country for the first time.

The participants bearing the United Nations Laissez-Passer (UNLP) are not exempt from visa requirements to enter Botswana.

VISA FEES

- Gratis-Diplomatic/service/official passport holders
- BWP500 (\$50) – single entry
- BWP1000 (\$100) – multiple entry.

For more details, visit the website: <https://evisa.gov.bw>.

AIRPORT RECEPTION AND TRANSPORT

On arrival, the necessary assistance will be provided by members of the Organizing Committee. To facilitate the process, make sure that you **send your flight details to the RC73 Secretariat at your earliest convenience, but no later than 7 August 2023**, via the online registration platform (<http://reg.unog.ch/e/RC73>). The same applies to information for delegates arriving by land.

The transfer of official participants from the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport to their recommended hotels in Gaborone is facilitated by the Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee will also arrange for the transfer of participants from the recommended hotels to the meeting venue every morning and back to the hotels at the end of the daily sessions. Participants not residing in the recommended hotels will be responsible for their own transportation.

At the airport, you are requested to keep your luggage tags to present them at the exit to the customs officials.

Local transport services are available and the cab services below have been cleared by UNDSS for use. Generally determined by the distance and duration of the trip, the fare is between BWP50 and BWP200 within Gaborone.

Company name	Contact No.	E-mail	Point of contact
AT & T Cabs	00267 7230 7563 00267 71648966 00267 75785138 00267 3952640	gabaratesento@at-t-travel.com	Gabarate Sento
Dintwe's Cab (Pty) Ltd	00267 71572805 00267 75072579 00267 72803246		Feni Rantuwa
Norwich & Norfolk Group (Pty) Ltd	00267 3112584 00267 76197613	norwichcabs.bw@gmail.com	Connie Molatlhegi
Delux Cab (Pty) Ltd	00267 3911666 00267 71600019	marketingdeluxecabs20@gmail.com	Ludo Kwapa
Ezwe Investment (Pty) Ltd	00267 76492388 00267 77853511 00267 72646603		Thato Solomon Milicent Makwate

ACCOMMODATION

The list of hotels selected for the guests of the Seventy-third session of the Regional Committee is attached as Annex 2. It is recommended that you make your reservation in one of these hotels in order to benefit from the shuttle service that will be provided by the Organizing Committee between the hotels and the event venue – Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC).

Participants are advised to make their own reservation as early as possible as rooms could quickly become unavailable due to the anticipated increased demand during the period of the Regional Committee. To make a reservation, please refer to Annex 2, which provides the rates according to the room type, and the contact details of each hotel.

REGISTRATION AND BADGES

All information pertaining to confirmation of participation, including flight details, requirements for obtaining the Botswana entry visa, and hotel reservations should be communicated through the online registration platform at <http://reg.unog.ch/e/RC73>.

Annex 1 of this document provides a guide for online registration. Should you need assistance, please contact the WHO country office or send an email to afgorcregistration@who.int.

Participants will be required to register online and obtain identification badges prior to the opening of the Regional Committee session. For identification and security purposes, the official badge should be worn by all participants at all times during the Regional Committee session and at the official social functions.

Distribution of badges will be between 08:00 and 20:00, starting on Saturday, 26 August 2023 at the conference venue.

CATERING

Coffee breaks and lunch will be served free of charge to participants during the Regional Committee session. Gaborone is home to a diverse variety of restaurants and eateries which can be found in major shopping malls such as Airport Junction, Main Mall, The Fields Mall.

CLIMATE

Botswana's climate is semi-arid, although it is hot and dry for much of the year. The summer season begins in November and ends in March, bringing with it very high temperatures. The winter season begins in May and ends in August. As the RC73 will be hosted at the end of the winter season mornings are expected to be cooler and afternoons to be warmer.

CURRENCY

Botswana's unit of currency is the Pula (BWP), the only accepted currency in the country. Major credit cards, including VISA, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted. The exchange rate ranges around BWP13 to US\$ 1.

COMMUNICATION

Three mobile telecommunication companies operate in Botswana: Orange, Mascom, and BTC Mobile. A SIM card costs about BWP10.00 and refills range from BWP10 to BWP100. However, every SIM card user/buyer in Botswana is expected by law to register for activation. The SIM card can be registered at the above service providers' outlets. An identification document will be required.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yellow fever vaccinations

Botswana requires a valid yellow fever international certificate of vaccination from travellers including:

- Those who transit through/via endemic or affected countries or areas
- Travellers from endemic countries
- Travellers arriving from affected countries.

The list of yellow fever endemic countries includes the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Angola | 16. Guinea |
| 2. Benin | 17. Guinea-Bissau |
| 3. Burkina Faso | 18. Kenya |
| 4. Burundi | 19. Liberia |
| 5. Cameroon | 20. Mali |
| 6. Central African Republic | 21. Mauritania |
| 7. Chad | 22. Niger |
| 8. Congo | 23. Nigeria |
| 9. Côte d'Ivoire | 24. Senegal |
| 10. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 25. Sierra Leone |
| 11. Equatorial Guinea | 26. South Sudan |
| 12. Ethiopia | 27. Sudan |
| 13. Gabon | 28. Togo |
| 14. Gambia, The | 29. Uganda |
| 15. Ghana | |

COVID-19 Protocol

Botswana has removed all stringent COVID-19 protocols as of October 2022. However, delegates are encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 when travelling, and further encouraged to observe all other personal protective measures, including wearing of masks when necessary. Conference and accommodation facilities shall avail hygiene facilities for the control of COVID-19.

Health and travel insurance

It is compulsory for all delegates to obtain medical travel insurance, and to bring proof of their insurance with them when they travel. Insurance should include repatriation evacuation.

Medical facilities

For the duration of the conference, 24-hour medical coverage will be provided onsite in case of medical emergencies. The medical staff will consist of doctors, nurses, and emergency care personnel with an ambulance onsite. In case of further assistance, the patient will be referred to the most appropriate Government health facility in Gaborone unless otherwise specified.

Private medical health care (own cost), can be accessed at but not limited to:

Bokamoso Private Hospital – Tel: +267 3694000

Gaborone Private Hospital – Tel: +267 3901999

Sidilega Private Hospital – Tel: +267 3115792

SECURITY

In order to facilitate the entry into Botswana of armed security agents accompanying delegates, the concerned delegations are requested to contact the department of Protocol and Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who will in turn facilitate clearances of firearms. The full particulars including full names of bearers, nationalities, date of birth, passport numbers, calibre of weapons, serial numbers and rounds of ammunition should be submitted through diplomatic channels and faxed to +267 395 9685 and emailed to miacprotocol@gov.bw two weeks prior to entry.

Security detail will also be provided to participants who need them. The security arrangements will be extended to the selected hotels and the conference venue.

Access to the conference hall will be subject to the presentation of a badge specifically prepared for the session.

The official vehicles will be identified by a sticker.

Security clearance is mandatory for all travel by staff of agencies of the United Nations system. Security clearance may be obtained from the UNDSS TRIP website (<http://dss.un.org>) before travelling. For assistance, please contact Mr Thabo Medupe, UNDSS Security Officer at thabo.medupe@un.org.

Gaborone is a travel destination with a fairly stable level of security and minimal risks. However, it is important to take the following precautions:

- avoid going out at night alone or on foot;
- always opt to move about in areas with many people;
- do not leave any valuables at the meeting venue or in your hotel room; and
- provide information on where you are going, if your destination is outside the area of the meeting.

ELECTRICITY

Botswana operates on a 230-240V supply voltage at 50Hz and uses two plug types: types D and G. Participants are strongly advised to bring a universal adaptor that will be compatible with both types of plug sockets.

SPOKEN LANGUAGES

The official language of Botswana is English. The most widely spoken national language in Gaborone is Setswana. Here below are some useful expressions in that language.

Hello = Dumelang

How are you? = A le tsogile? /Le kae?

Goodbye = Go siame/ (Sala sentle/Tsamaya sentle)

Welcome = Re a go amogela

Thank you (very much) = Ke a leboga/Tanki

Excuse me/please = Intshwarele/(Sori)

Yes Sir = Ee Rra

Yes Madam = Ee mma.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Ministry of Health

Ms Grace Muzila, Permanent Secretary

E-mail: gmuzila@gov.bw / mohwps@gov.bw

Office: +267 3632534

Mobile: +267 71308618

Alternative email: gmzulareb@gmail.com

Mr Moses K. Keetile, Deputy Permanent Secretary

E-mail: mkeetile@gov.bw / mohwdpshprd@gov.bw

Office: +267 3632606

Mobile: +267 71 62 07 41

Alternative email: mkketile@yahoo.co.uk

Organizing Committee contacts

Dr Christopher Nyanga, Head of Communications and Public Relations Officer

Email: cnyanga@gov.bw

Office: +267 3632574

Mobile: +267 71 60 63 99

Alternative email: cnyanga34@yahoo.com

Ms Rajunisa Rose Molomo, Head of Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations

Email: rrkhan@gov.bw

Office: +267 3632827

Mobile: +267 71609585

Alternative email: rajunisa.khan@gmail.com

WHO contacts:

Dr Josephine NAMBOZE

WHO Representative to Botswana and SADC

Email: nambozej@who.int

Office: +267 397 3503

Mobile: +267 71330134

Alt mob: +267 73535481

Ms Cristina BIRSAN

External Relations and Partnerships Coordinator, WHO Botswana (**Organizing Committee**)

Email: birsanc@who.int

Office: +267 390 5593 (Office)

Mobile: +267 74620807

Security emergency contacts:

Mr Thabo MEDUPE, UNDSS Security Officer in Botswana

Email: thabo.medupe@un.org

Mobile: +267 71235682

Mr Zia Choudhury, UN Resident Coordinator in Botswana

Email: zia.choudhury@un.org

Mobile: +267 7421 7113

Mr Andrei Bobylev, UNDSS Regional Coordinator

Email: andrei.bobylev@un.org

Mobile: +27 82 301 5888

In case of emergency, please contact:

- Medical emergency at 997
- Police at 999
- Fire brigade at 998

For additional information, visit <http://www.botswanaturism.co.bw>.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Guide for online registration:

- (a) Copy and paste this link into your Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari or Opera web browser:
<https://reg.unog.ch/e/RC73>;
- (b) On the **RC73** page, click on the link **Register now**;
- (c) You will be redirected to the connection page. Next, click on **Create a new account**;
- (d) Fill in the form that appears, and click on **Confirm**;
- (e) You should receive an account activation email after a few minutes;
- (f) Click on the account activation link to activate your account;
- (g) Your account is now active and you will be redirected to the **RC73** page.
- (h) If you are not yet connected, you can do so using your new username and your Indico password. You may use this same account in the Indico system for all other governing body meetings of the Regional Office for Africa.
- (i) The registration form for the conference has been pre-filled with some of your details. Please, upload an identification document with a photo or use the Webcam to take a photo; then populate all fields on the form. Click on **Register** when you finish filling the form.
- (j) You will receive an automatic email acknowledging receipt of your registration form. Subsequently, you will receive an email informing you on whether your request has been approved.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF RECOMMENDED HOTELS

No.	Hotel Name	Telephone No.	Contact/Website	Address	Negotiated rates in BWP (Applies to July)	Total No. of rooms
1.	Hilton Garden Hotel 3*	00267 3704200	Osi.Osi@Hilton.com Ratanang.Seru@Hilton.com	Central Business District	King Standard – 1 550 Twin Room – 1 550 King 1 Bed Suite- 2 300 Accessible Room – 1 550	147
2.	Grand Palm Hotel 4*	00267 3637777	www.grandpalm.bw	Block 5 on the venue of RC73	Deluxe – 1 330 Executive Room – 1 789 Twin – 1 584 Exec Suite – 6 645 Junior Suite – 5 545 Presidential Suite- 8 650	183
3.	Cresta President Hotel 3*	00267 3953631	www.crestahotels.com	Main Mall	Standard single – 1 150 Executive – 1 900 Paraplegic – 1 150 Presidential – 3 279	92
4.	Metcourt Inn 3*	00267 3637005	metres@grandpalm.bw	Housed within Grand Palm and on the venue of RC73	Standard Room – 1 190 Executive King – 1 565	99
5.	Travel Lodge 3*	00267 3105000	www.travelodge.com	Block 3	Superior Room– 1 149 Twin Superior – 1 249 Standard Room – 1 049 Twin Standard – 1 149	115
6.	Cresta Lodge 3*	00267 3975375	www.crestamarakanelo.com	Near Fairgrounds Mall	Standard Single – 1 092 Executive – 1 890 Twin – 1 561	147
7.	Woodlane Hotel 2*	+267 3185230	www.woodlane.co.bw	Riverwalk Mall	Standard Room – 850 Executive Suite – 1 650 Twin Room – 1 160 Family Suite – 2 000	58
8.	Town Lodge 2*	+267 3160490	tlgbs.gm@clhg.com	Sebele Centre Mall	Standard Double - 982 Twin Room – 1 120	70
9.	Room 52 4*	00267 3975557	www.room50two.com	Central Business District	Standard – 1 449 Premium – 1 699	50
10.	Protea by Marriott Hotel 4*	00267 3159954	info@masasquarehotel.com	Masa Square Central Business District	Standard/ Queen – 1 800 Executive Club – 1 600 Executive Suite – 1 400	100

No.	Hotel Name	Telephone No.	Contact/Website	Address	Negotiated rates in BWP (Applies to July)	Total No. of rooms
11.	Magville Bed & Breakfast 3*	00267 71 777 000	sites.google.com/view/magville-guest-house/	Block 7	Standard Room - 550	7
12.	Arianna Guest House 3*	00267 311 1710	ariannaguesthouse09@gmail.com	Block 5	Standard room - 700 Executive Room - 850 Twin Beds - 800	7
13.	Avani Hotel 4*	00267 361 6000	gaborone@avanihotels.com	Maruapula / Extension 39	Club – 2 053 Suite – 3 103 Garden view room – 1 650 Superior – 1 400 Standard – 1 200	199
14.	Mondior 4*	00267 77 626123	reservations@mondior.co.bw	Village	Standard – 1 310 Exec – 1 410	67
15.	Regent Hotel 3*	00267 3182572	info@regentgroup-hotels.com	Extension 10	Standard - 930 Exec - 930	36
16.	Planet Lodge 3*	00267 391 0116	info@planetlodges.com	Block 3	Standard - 800 Executive – 1 000	31