

**Message by H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Permanent
Representative of Botswana to the United Nations and President of
the Economic and Social Council**

On the occasion of the International Day of Nowruz – 22 March 2022

**Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

- 1.** I am happy to join you and wish all of you a happy International Day of Nowruz.
- 2.** Nowruz represents a new beginning. A new opportunity. A new year.
- 3.** The Nowruz ideals transcend national borders, religions and cultures.
- 4.** It celebrates the richness of our diversity, while reminding us all of what we have in common.
- 5.** It is a time to reflect on the year that has passed, while looking forward to the blessings of the future.

6. It is a chance to renew our pledge for peace, friendship, human rights and human dignity. A chance to renew our unwavering commitment to leave no one behind.

7. Today, the Nowruz spirit is more necessary than ever, as we are still trying to rebuild and recover from a devastating pandemic and conflicts that are rapidly intensifying in many parts of the world.

8. Let us mark this new beginning with a fresh and firm determination for a world with greater unity, solidarity and harmony with people and nature.

9. A world that nourishes dialogue and cooperation instead of division and confrontation; a world where peace and dignity are the norm and not the exception. A world that we can rebuild together in a more just and sustainable way.

10. May the Nowruz spirit of rebirth and renewal bring us together to aspire for better days ahead.

Happy Nowruz to everyone!