

REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**AT THE GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM (GDP) SIDE EVENT ON
“DRIVING SDG IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH DAIRY”**

**6 JULY 2022
07:30-09:00 HOURS**

VIRTUAL EVENT

Please check against delivery.

- **Mr. Moderator;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Dear Participants;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank profoundly Global Dairy Platform (GDP) for hosting this important side event on “***Driving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Implementation Through Dairy***” and inviting me to deliver some remarks.
2. Dairy has always been, and continues to be, a major force for good in the world.
3. The Dairy sector supports economic growth and builds strong, resilient, enduring economies and can transform the lives of individuals, families and communities.
4. Dairy provides vital, affordable nutrition for **six billion people** globally. In fact, dairy provides **10%** of the world’s protein -- a high-quality protein.

5. Additionally, **one billion people** rely on the dairy sector for their livelihoods, while another **six hundred million** people live on dairy farms and **four hundred million** rely on the full-time jobs that support the dairy industry.

Excellencies,

6. The Dairy sector is also an important partner in the empowerment of women, including in some of the poorest parts of the world. There are an estimated **356 million** dairy cows/buffalos in the world, but you will be interested to know that the average herd size is **~ 3 cows**.
7. Currently, there are **133 million** dairy farms world-wide, **thirty-seven million** of which are led by women and, while Dairy provides **240 million** full-time jobs, **eighty millions** of these are held by women.
8. In my own country Botswana, Global Dairy Platform has been an important partner in our economic development and in the provision of livelihoods and

nutrition, in our efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Initiatives such as **Pathways to Dairy Net Zero** and **Dairy Nourishes Africa**, are important and timely initiatives which demonstrate the resilience of the Dairy Sector in building back from the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
10. Additionally, the **Pathways to Dairy Net Zero** is an important step in the reduction of methane and other greenhouse gasses from the dairy sector as this is important for the success of the livestock sector in meeting global expectations.
11. In conclusion, I wish to commend Global Dairy Platform and its partners for adopting innovative approaches to promote sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate action towards the achievement of the SDGs.
12. At national level, Botswana will continue to be a trusted partner with you in this regard.

I thank you for your kind attention.