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STI Policy Review of Botswana and STI Foresight of Botswana

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STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY FEATURES

- ❑ First UNCTAD STIP review to incorporate a foresight exercise, and the first review financed fully by a beneficiary country
- ❑ Close collaboration with Botswana Department for Research, Science and Technology (DRST)
- ❑ Multistakeholder approach, mixed methods (including foresight tools: horizon scanning, questionnaires, workshops and scenario planning)
- ❑ COVID-19 pandemic created implementation challenges
- ❑ Government was restructured in May 2022 as drafting of reports finished, but assessment is not materially changed



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STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY FINDINGS

- ❑ Strong growth performance, but slow structural transformation – a central national development goal
- ❑ Strong national potential, but weak innovation capacity
- ❑ Good progress on education, but more needed in STEM, technical skills, soft skills, higher education
- ❑ R&D and STI systems highly fragmented, many silos, weak coordination, inadequate prioritization (STI foresight's main goal to help establish national STI priorities)
- ❑ Institutional governance of STI is inadequate; balance of policy focus heavy on R&D, weak on T and I; the 2011 RSTI policy is now outdated
- ❑ RSTI policy implementation is slow and partial, M&E inadequate
- ❑ Financing for STI inadequate and GERD is below national target
- ❑ Private sector engagement/support are weak

STIP REVIEW BOTSWANA: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



IMPROVE STEM
EDUCATION,
TECHNICAL AND
SOFT SKILLS



STRENGTHEN
INSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNANCE
OF STI



REBALANCE
FOCUS ON S, T, I +
REVISE RSTI POLICY
+ IMPROVE M&E



ESTABLISH
CLEAR
NATIONAL STI
PRIORITIES



INCREASE
FINANCING FOR
R&D,
INNOVATION



INCREASE
ENGAGEMENT +
SUPPORT TO
PRIVATE SECTOR



ENHANCE
PROMOTION OF
DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
VIA SMARTBOTS



UPGRADE
INTERNATIONAL
STI
COOPERATION
EFFORTS



STRENGTHEN R&D
SYSTEM, RESEARCH
MANAGEMENT AND
USE



ADD FOCUS ON
NEW/FRONTIER
TECHNOLOGIES



BUILD STI
POLICY
CAPACITY IN
KEY AREAS



HARNESS STI
ACROSS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
CHALLENGES



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THANK YOU!