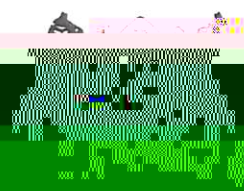
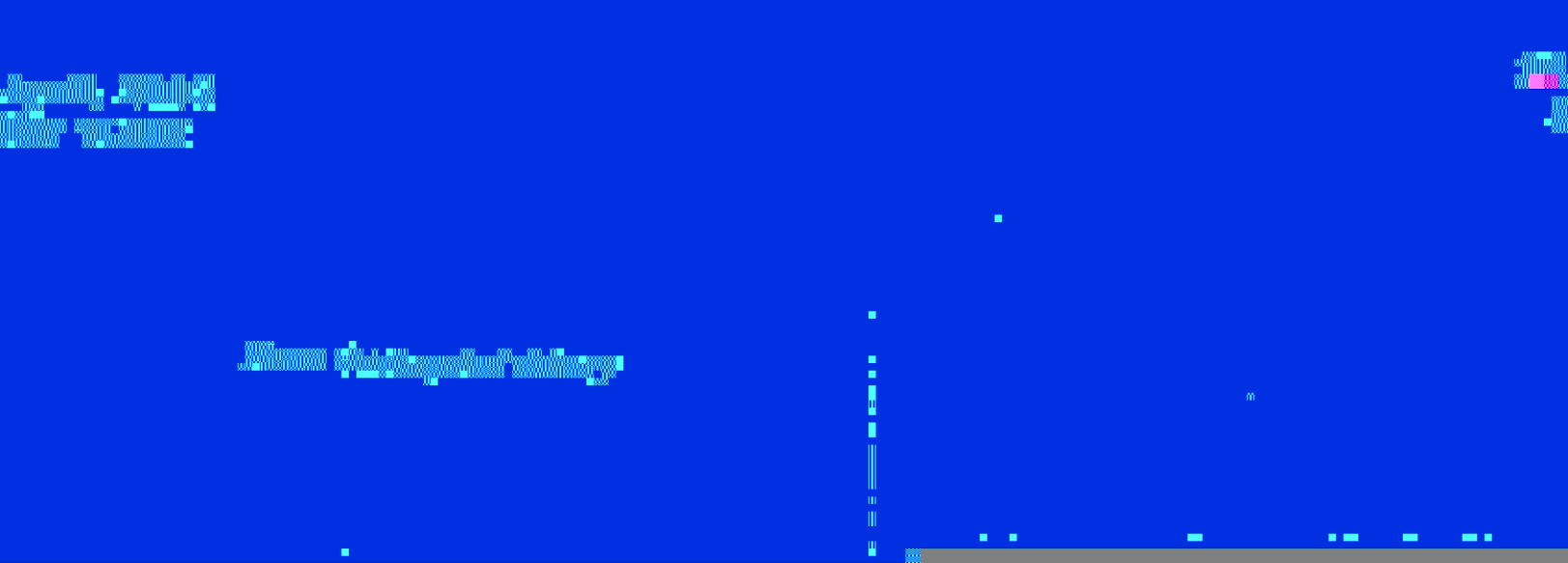
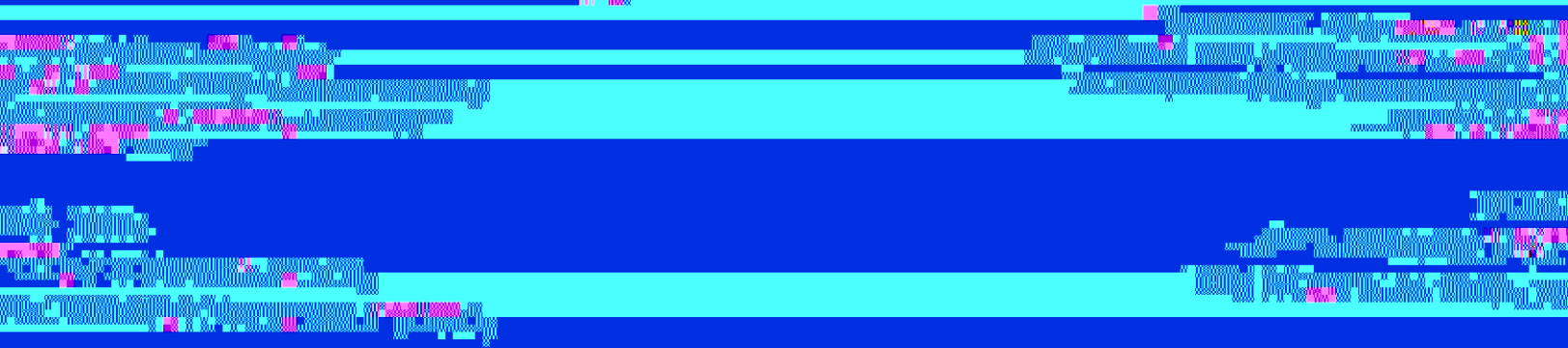
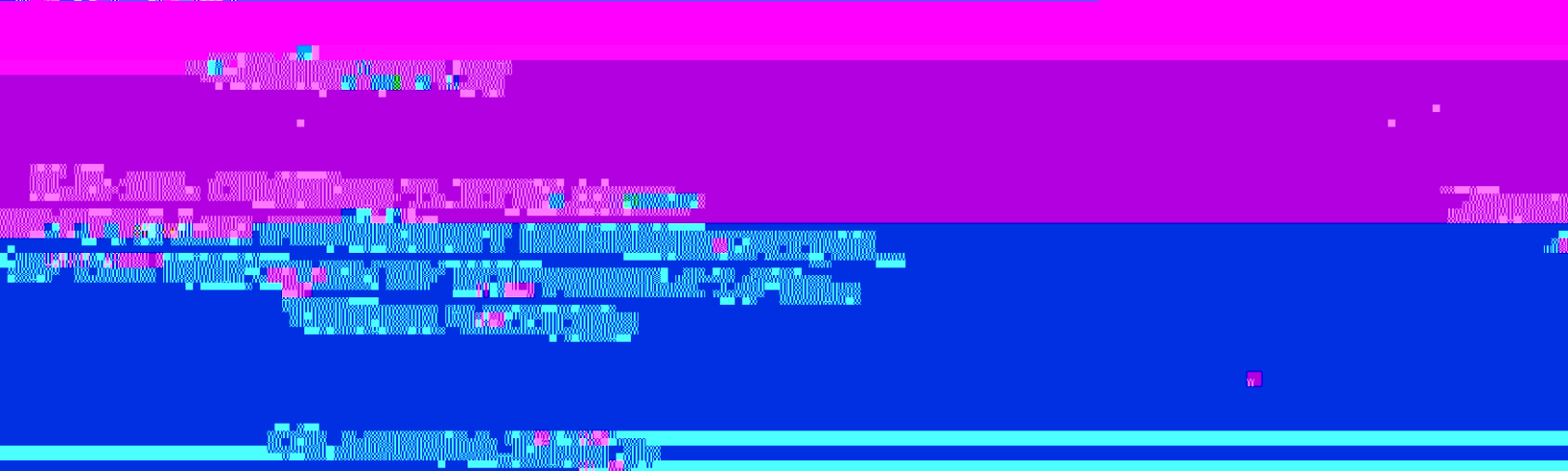
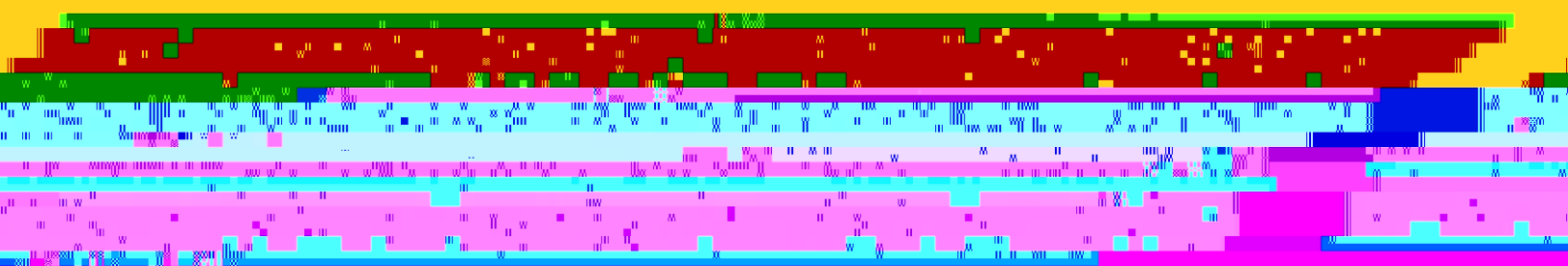


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Madam Chair,

6. Botswana's statement during the 47th Session of the CPD reflected that over the past twenty years, the Government of Botswana has

prioritised key components of the ICPD Programme of Action such as investment in the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights; provision of sexual and reproductive health services and monitoring fertility levels; creation of employment; eradication of extreme poverty as well as protection of the physical environment, including water and energy sources.

7. Indications are that these elements will continue to form the hallmark of our country's development agenda in the period beyond 2015, as they remain relevant to the people's needs. However, the challenge is identifying appropriate implementation strategies in the light of the ever-changing dynamics of these issues.

Madam Chair,

8. Government efforts in the fight against poverty in the past decades bore fruit as poverty levels fell from 47% in 1993/94 to

19.3% in 2009/10. It is important therefore that in the post 2015

development agenda, we elaborate interventions that will assist

decline in order to keep it above the replacement level

phenomenon we should cherish even in the next fifteen years.

11. A major breakthrough has been realised in the levels of infant and child mortality after long periods of stagnation. Child mortality

declined from 56 to 11 deaths per 1000 children in 2001 and 2011 respectively. Maternal mortality has also declined from 193 in

2007 to 134 per 100 000 in 2013. Notably, life expectancy has increased from 55.5 in 1971 to 68 in 2011.

12. In the next two decades, Botswana will continue to promote

20.7% of the total population. There are notable opportunities and challenges associated with this demographic trend

16. On the contrary, the challenge associated with this youth bulge

revolves around ensuring the provision of quality education and skills that match the demands of the job market. Whilst

urgency since Botswana is a trade corridor from the South to the

North of Africa.

22. The important role of the National Statistics Office in the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the next fifteen years cannot be overemphasised. The generation of data from regular surveys to better track economic and social indicators would afford us the opportunity to produce gender disaggregated

therefore, support the finalisation of the SDGs, their targets and indicators.

23. In conclusion, it is worth noting that the successful domestication and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action based