

25TH ESARBICA RESOLUTIONS

WE THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE 25TH BINNENAL ESARBICA CONFERENCE AND SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF ESARBICA ON THE THEME "ESARBICA TESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW HELD AT FAIRGROUNDS GABORONE BETWEEN THE 9TH AND THE 13TH SEPTEMBER 2019 WISH TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA FOR THE WARM RECEPTION AND HOSPITALITY.

RECOGNISING THE TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT THAT ESARBICA HAS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVAL SERVICES IN THE REGION AND

TAKING NOTE OF THE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES THAT CONTINUE TO IMPACT UPON ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICES IN OUR RESPECTIVE MEMBER STATES

DO THEREFORE URGE:

1. NATIONAL ARCHIVES INSTITUTIONS ARE UNDERMINED, WE RECOMMEND THAT ESARBICA SHOULD LOBBY WITH RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PROPER PLACEMENT OF NATIONAL ARCHIVAL INSTITUTIONS IN RELEVANT MINISTRIES.
2. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS OF THE NATION ARCHIVES ARE WEAK, THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND THAT MEMBER STATES SHOULD REVIEW ARCHIVAL ACTS SO AS TO ENHANCE THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO BE ABLE TO INSTITUTE PUNITIVE MEASURES OR LEGAL ACTIONS ON CONTROLLING OFFICERS WHO UNDERMINE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUND AND PROPER RECORDS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.
3. MOST ESARBICA MEMBER STATES DO NOT HAVE RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICIES, THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE INSTITUTIONS TO CHAMPION THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT POLICIES.
4. URGING MEMBER STATES WITHOUT ADEQUATE LEGISLATION GOVERNING ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE FORMULATION OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION GOVERNING ACCESS TO RECORDS AND ARCHIVES.
5. NOTING THAT ARCHIVAL SERVICES ARE NOT FULLY UTILISED: WE URGE MEMBER STATES TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES THAT WILL PROMOTE THE UTILIZATION OF ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS
6. BEARING IN MIND THAT PRIVATE ARCHIVES AS WELL AS RECORDS FROM MINORITY OR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES ARE NEGLECTED: WE URGE MEMBER STATES TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES AIMED AT COLLECTING AND PRESERVING RECORDS FROM THESE GROUPS

7. SOME MEMBERS STATES LACK NATIONAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS: WE REQUEST MEMBER STATES WITHOUT SUCH ASSOCIATION TO ASSIST IN THE FORMATION OF SUCH ASSOCIATION.