



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**STATEMENT BY**

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**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
FIRST COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 77<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**12 OCTOBER 2022, NEW YORK**

**Mr Chair,**

1. At the outset, I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Committee. You and other members of the Bureau can be assured of my delegation's support towards the successful consideration of all agenda items.
2. Botswana aligns with the statement by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and wishes to deliver a few remarks in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chair,**

3. The current international security environment is a cause for deep concern. It reflects a weak commitment to the UN Charter and to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control, and other international regimes that are aimed at making the world a peaceful and safer place.
4. In this regard, there is a need for a renewed commitment to these instruments. For our part as Botswana, we continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to promoting international peace and security through adherence to traditional and new obligations.
5. Regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, we wish to join those registering their disappointment at the failure of the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to adopt an outcome document.

6. However, we should indicate that despite the disappointing end to the Conference, we were encouraged by the emphasis made on the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the importance attached to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s technical cooperation programme.
7. The Agency has facilitated Botswana's access to nuclear technology to prevent and control livestock diseases and crop production. We, therefore, consider the IAEA a key player in fostering international peace and security and a partner in attaining the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Be that as it may, we wish to underscore the importance of implementing and strengthening the NPT pillar commitments and in a balanced and mutually reinforcing manner.

**Chair,**

9. I should note that the disappointment from the NPT Review Conference should not overshadow the progress that has been made in relation to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), in particular, its entry into force, successful First Meeting of States Parties and the adoption of the Vienna Action Plan.
10. As the 40<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the TPNW, Botswana is impressed with its progress and implores States to sign, ratify and accede to it, thus leading to its universalization and the eventual realization of the disarmament goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

11. In addition to the NPT and the TPNW, Botswana is committed to its obligations within the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which is a cornerstone of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) non-proliferation architecture. To this end, we are working with the 1540 Committee and partners such as United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in collaboration with the United States, the European Union in strengthening national implementation capacity.

**Chair,**

12. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of Information and Communication Technologies was on the increase. The advent of the pandemic accelerated this growth as well as threats. The work of the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 is therefore critical and we will remain actively engaged in this intergovernmental process.

13. At the national level, we have formulated a cybersecurity strategy which, among other objectives, is aimed at promoting collaboration and cooperation on cybersecurity issues at national, regional, and international levels.

14. In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, I wish to reaffirm Botswana's commitment to the international security and disarmament agenda and the multilateral framework within which this noble goal is pursued.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

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