



**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
STATEMENT**

BY

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
NEW YORK,**

2 AUGUST 2022



Mr. President,

I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency and the productive consultations you held in the lead-up to this Conference.

Botswana aligns with the statement by Zambia on behalf of the African Group and Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). I would like to deliver a few remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I should indicate that Botswana signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in July 1968 when it opened for signature and deposited the instrument of ratification in April 1969, thus demonstrating our commitment to the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

This commitment was further demonstrated by Botswana's adoption of other international instruments that support the objectives of the NPT. These include the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) and, recently, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

I must note that Botswana was the 40th nation to ratify the TPNW. This early ratification also indicates Botswana's strong support for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As it is often reiterated, the only guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

The country's pro-elimination position is influenced by the need to prevent catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned by the backdrop against which the Conference is taking place. This being the current fragile state of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime occasioned by actions that undermine and violate the principles of the NPT.

In this regard, we, the States Parties, should take the opportunity provided by this long-awaited Review Conference to reaffirm our commitment to the three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT, namely, disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Therefore, we hope that States Parties will muster the necessary political will, good faith, and spirit of consensus to deliver a successful outcome.

Mr. President,

We wish to underscore the centrality of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the implementation of the NPT and therefore reiterate the call for all States Parties to fully comply with their obligations under the Agency's comprehensive safeguards.

In addition to fostering non-proliferation and disarmament, Botswana commends the Agency for its work in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with Pillar III of the Treaty.

In this connection, I am pleased to note that Botswana benefits from the International Atomic Energy Agency's technical cooperation programs. The Agency has facilitated Botswana's access to nuclear technology to prevent and control livestock diseases and crop production.

Therefore, Botswana considers the IAEA a key player in fostering international peace and security and a partner in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Apart from the IAEA, we recognize the efforts of other entities in the United Nations (UN) system in supporting the realisation of disarmament and non-proliferation. These include, among others, the General Assembly as a norm setting platform, the Security Council for its enforcement measures and the UN Secretariat for the implementation of Member States' mandates.

In this regard, Botswana appreciates the capacity building support we are currently receiving from the 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in collaboration with the United States, the European Union as well as other valuable partners, in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540.

In conclusion, **President**, I wish to reaffirm Botswana's commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and assure you that you can count on our support and constructive engagement towards a successful outcome at this Tenth Review Conference.

I Thank you for your kind attention.