

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE

**2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

NEW YORK, 6 MAY 2010

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Cabactulan, President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Botswana joins other speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the NPT Review Conference and offers her full support to you in your stewardship of the deliberations towards a meaningful and fruitful outcome.

2. Botswana associates herself with the statements delivered by Indonesia, on behalf of the NAM States Parties and by Cameroon on behalf of the Africa Group.

3. My delegation observed with keen interest the introductory statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the commencement of this Review Conference.

4. In agreement with the Secretary-General, Botswana supports a balanced approach in addressing the questions of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

5. Of primary importance to Botswana is the peaceful use of nuclear technology in areas such as agriculture, the environment, water management and medicine.

6. We therefore agree with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency who, in his introductory statement, called for sufficient, assured and predictable funding for the Technical Cooperation programme of the Agency.

Mr. President,

7. Botswana comes to this forum as a Non Nuclear Weapon State Party. Even so, we are fully committed as a nation to the ideals enshrined in the NPT.

8. Let me reiterate the great importance Botswana attaches to the objectives of the Treaty including, most importantly, the attainment of complete disarmament and non-proliferation. In support of her efforts to contribute to the implementation of the NPT, Botswana ratified the Additional Protocol in August 2006.

9. Botswana is a committed participant in the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA, the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT and its Additional Protocol, and has enacted in her national legislation the Radiation Protection Act in 2006 and the Radiation Protection Regulations in 2008, to give effect to the implementation of the her obligations under the relevant international agreements.

10. Botswana also supports the Secretary General's call for a conference this year or the year following to review the implementation of the Convention on Nuclear Terrorism.

Mr. President,

11. Botswana attaches great importance to Regional Mechanisms put in place for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

12. For this reason, Botswana signed the Pelindaba Treaty on the denuclearization of Africa which was approved by African Heads of State on 23 June 1995 and set Africa apart as a zone free of nuclear weapons. It is the hope of my delegation that the objectives of the Pelindaba Treaty will be achieved including through the establishment of an African Commission on Nuclear Energy which is meant to strengthen compliance with Treaty obligations.

13. Botswana also participates in the nuclear test-ban verification regime currently known as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. My delegation is concerned that even to date, the CTBT has not yet entered into force as some holdout states, whose ratification is a precondition for the entry into force of the Treaty, are yet to sign and ratify it. Botswana views ratification of the CTBT as an important step in strengthening the verification regime, which also serves as an effective deterrent against covert nuclear armaments programmes.

Mr. President,

14. Unlike the setbacks experienced during the 2005 NPT Review Conference, we are hopeful this Review Conference will produce a substantive outcome. The unprecedented commitment and unity of purpose demonstrated by important actors on major issues before the Review Conference has heightened the spirit of optimism and produced high levels of expectation.

15. In conclusion, Mr. President, Botswana, once again, wishes all delegations and the President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference successful and fruitful deliberations in the weeks ahead and a final outcome that befits the current spirit of international cooperation.

Thank you.