

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

DURING THE

**FIRST HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

26 SEPTEMBER 2013, NEW YORK

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Your Excellency, Ambassador John Ashe, President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me join other speakers in congratulating you, Ambassador John Ashe, on your assumption of the Presidency of the 68th session of the General Assembly.
2. My delegation wishes to pledge its full support to you Mr. President in the execution of your onerous responsibilities.
3. Botswana associates herself with statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Mr. President,

4. Even though we participate in this forum as a non-Nuclear Weapon State, we certainly attach great importance to the principles of the United Nations Charter, specifically with respect to the prevention of threats to international Peace and Security.
5. We are fully committed to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well as all other multilateral treaties that relate to the prevention of nuclear proliferation and testing.

Mr. President,

6. It is a matter of deep regret that even though the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was signed more than 15 years ago, it has still not yet entered into force because some influential Member States, whose ratification is a precondition for the entry into force of the Treaty, have not yet ratified it.
7. The importance of this Treaty cannot be overemphasized as it will help prevent countries from developing nuclear weapons while at the same time preventing those countries that already have nuclear weapons from further developing advanced ones.

8. It is for this reason that my delegation calls on the concerned countries to heed the international admonition that nuclear testing not only adversely affects the wellbeing of mankind, but also poses a serious threat to international peace and security. It also has disastrous consequences on the environment. It is almost certain that the effects of the radioactivity from these nuclear explosions will be felt by many generations to come.
9. We strongly believe that complete destruction of nuclear arsenals is the only guarantee that they will not be replaced or substituted hence Botswana is among the Member States that have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We have also ratified a number of related international instruments such as the Non- Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Mr. President,

10. My country also attaches great importance to Regional Mechanisms that have been put in place to address nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. To this end, Botswana is proud to have signed the Pelindaba Treaty on the de- nuclearization of Africa, which has set Africa apart as a zone free of nuclear weapons.
11. We therefore urge all other regions of the world to work together towards establishing Nuclear – weapon –free zones to address the risk of nuclear proliferation in their regions.
12. In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to re- affirm Botswana's commitment to supporting the international community's efforts towards the promotion and protection of international peace and security.

I thank you for your attention.
