REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATEMENT

BY

H.E MR COLLEN KELAPILE

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE
UNITED NATION

AT THE 74th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION DEBATE

ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

AGENDA ITEMS OF FISRT COMMITTEE
Mr Chairman
The Botswana congratulates you and other members of the bureau on your election to guide this Committee during this session. My delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation throughout the deliberations of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Botswana aligns itself with the statement delivered by Zambia on behalf of Africa Group and a statement by Indonesia issued on behalf of Non Aligned Movement.

Mr Chairman
The Republic of Botswana re-affirms its commitment to the obligations of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically;

To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means.
Mr. Chairman

The global security situation is deteriorating due to the threats caused by the new arms race. The international security environment is characterized by increased arms expenditure by Member States, nuclear weapon and small arms proliferation, emerging technology that causes cybersecurity challenges, sophisticated methods of munitions and warheads delivery. This has brought about new global security challenges. Therefore, Botswana calls upon the international community to take a shared responsibility and work together towards tackling these causes of threat to international security.

Mr Chairman

Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control intends to secure a more peaceful and secure world, therefore it core to the determination to achieve sustainable development.

There are numerous linkages between military expenditure, arms trade, violent conflict and reduction of resources for socio-economic development. Nation States that expend excessive financial,
technological and human resources on their military, redirect resources from socio-economic and environmental policy initiatives. The production process of weapons and their use prevents sustainable ecological development and preservation, creates unequal access to resources and hinders poverty reduction initiatives.

Botswana remains deeply concerned about the illicit trade, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons around the globe, which often worsen conflict with adverse humanitarian and socio-economic consequences.

As part of our commitment to disarmament, international peace and security, as a move towards a peaceful world order, Botswana recently became State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty, a tool to reduce the unregulated arms trade.

We urge Member states to go beyond their administrative obligation in regulating the arms trade by discussing how to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) more effectively.

Mr Chairman
The continued existence of nuclear weapons poses grave implications for human survival, the environment, socio-economic development, global economy, food security and health of current and future generations. Nuclear weapons have been used in warfare against people, in all these incidents, millions of lives were claimed. Some nuclear weapons were detonated as tests on numerous occasions since the dawn of the atomic age, this brought about devastating long-term consequences for human health and the environment. Therefore, the use of nuclear weapons would violate international humanitarian, environmental and human rights law. As an international concern, on the 7 July 2017, 122 states voted to adopt the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Botswana have also just signed the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a landmark and a disarmament agreement that outlaws the most destructive instruments of war ever created in humanity. The treaty is an instrument towards the prohibition, stigmatization and elimination of nuclear weapons. It clearly condemns and prohibits the development,
production, use and threatened use of nuclear weapons as well as assistance with or encouragement of such activities.

Mr Chairman

Botswana calls upon all States that have not signed to do so without delay. We underscore the significant role of the TPNW of strengthening the global norms and practises against the use, proliferation and possession of nuclear weapons by any country. We condemn as illegal any activity prohibited under this Treaty, such as threats to use nuclear weapon, testing of nuclear weapon and the development and modernisation of nuclear arsenal.

Mr Chairman

Study has shown that at any given intergovernmental meeting on disarmament, about a quarter of participants are likely to be women, the rest being men. Yet women often suffer disproportionate or differential
harm from development, use and weapon trade, thus Botswana is of the position that there is need to ensure gender and other forms of diversity in disarmament discussion and negotiation.

Mr Chairman,

Weapon proliferation has become a serious security challenge that needs synergy, strong institutions and States partnership to work towards a peaceful and secure world for human and social progress. Let us join forces with trust and transparency to safeguard the security benefits that the existing treaties bring to us.

Thank you for your attention.