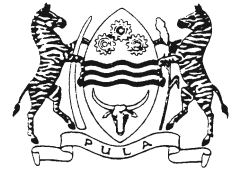


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

**MR. NKOLOI NKOLOI
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE**

FIRST COMMITTEE

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 69TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

10 OCTOBER 2014, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you and other Bureau members on your election to lead the deliberations of the First Committee during the 69th Session of the General Assembly.
2. I also wish to thank your predecessor H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi of Libya for his effective leadership of the First Committee during the 68th session of the General Assembly.
3. My delegation aligns itself with statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

4. It is that time of the year again when we meet to take stock of what has been happening around the world with regards to peace and security. We certainly remain challenged in making this world a safe place to live in because of the complexity of challenges that emerge on a daily basis, precipitated by various factors.
5. The continued existence of nuclear weapons, terrorism, the illicit trade and transfer of small arms and light weapons and outbreak of diseases are some of the challenges which pose a threat to peace and security, stability and development.
6. The fact that nuclear weapons still exist, brings into question the commitment by Nuclear Weapon States to achieve complete disarmament.

The potential catastrophic humanitarian impact of the use of these deadly weapons should compel us to consider eliminating them.

7. My delegation therefore wishes to reiterate the position of the Non-Aligned Movement that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.

8. Let me at this point, on behalf of my delegation, commend the Governments of Norway and Mexico for hosting the conferences on the Humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We look forward to another round of constructive discussions in Vienna in December.

9. Similarly, we look forward to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that will take place in 2015. The importance of the Treaty to enter into force, as early as possible, cannot be over-emphasized. We therefore add our voice to that of other delegations and urge the eight Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the NPT as necessary.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Botswana remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. Their accumulation and uncontrolled spread in all regions of the world is a cause for serious concern because these arms continue to be weapons of choice in most conflict situations with lasting consequences on the innocent.

11. It is against this background that we remain committed to the fight against trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the United Nations

Program of Action (UNPoA). In as far as implementing the Program of Action is concerned, my delegation is of the view that marking, tracing and record keeping are indispensable in the fight against the illicit trade of these weapons.

12. In line with the provisions of the SADC Protocol, UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument, Botswana has acquired marking machines through the assistance of US State Department on Politics and Military Affairs. To date, we have marked all arms in State possession except for those held by the Military. The exercise to mark those in civilian possession will also commence in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

13. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to re-affirm our continued support to efforts of the international community aimed at fighting challenges to peace and security.

14. The theme for this session, "Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda", should be an encouragement for us to work hard, collectively and with high tolerance for one another, to overcome threats to peace and security, which continue to be the greatest challenge to human development.

I thank you for your attention.
