



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT ON BOTSWANA'S RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ON
THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW)**

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana, it is with great pleasure to announce that on this 15th day of July 2020, Botswana has become the 40th Member State to deposit an instrument of ratification for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Such action befittingly coincides also with the 11th Anniversary of the African Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone Treaty, commonly referred to as the Treaty of Pelindaba.

In concluding this milestone step, Botswana has once again reconfirmed her unwavering commitment to global peace and security through prohibition of nuclear weapons as a concrete means towards full implementation of the disarmament agenda.

Importantly, Botswana firmly believes that nuclear technology must be exploited and appropriately utilized for peaceful purposes that contribute meaningfully to uplift the living standards and advance the livelihoods of mankind, rather than as destructive weapons for maiming and killing.

Botswana takes pride in being counted among the earliest States Parties of the required minimum number of 50 Member States following whose ratification of this important Treaty it will enter into force; and we sincerely hope this would happen during the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations this year.

Botswana therefore takes this opportunity to encourage all other peace-loving nations to collectively join hands and contribute to this noble endeavor for the prohibition of all nuclear weapons.

Collen Vixen Kelapile

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Botswana to the United Nations

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