



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**STATEMENT
BY MS SEGAKWENG TSIANE
PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND
SECURITY**

**AT THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF STATE
PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**Tokyo, Japan
20-24 August 2018**

**Mr President,
Representatives of States Parties and International
Organisations,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

1. Mr President, from the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your hard work and leadership over the last year in preparing for this Fourth Conference of States Parties. My delegation has taken note of the documentation prepared for the conference which sets a good basis for discussion. Let me assure you of my delegation's support and continued cooperation in achieving a fruitful outcome of the Conference.
2. Botswana is mindful that the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is premised on the requirement that State Parties should establish effective national conventional arms transfer control legislation together with the requisite dedicated conventional arms control systems. We also recognise that the ATT creates a range of obligations for States in the field of arms trade control with the primary objective of establishing the highest possible common international standard for regulating or improving the regulation of international trade in conventional arms; and preventing and eradicating illicit trade in conventional.
3. Botswana was actively involved in the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the ATT in 2013, and we remain committed to ensuring success of the ATT. In this regard, Mr President, I would like to inform you that Botswana has made notable progress in preparing to accede

to the ATT. We have recently revised the Arms and Ammunition Act thereby laying the foundation for proper accountability in trade in conventional arms and ensuring compliance with objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty. Our national controls are consistent with the ATT scope and adopted definitions. In this regard we have concluded our internal consultations processes and His Excellency the President of Botswana Mr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi is due to sign and cause to be deposited an instrument of accession to the ATT on the 25th September 2018, during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

4. Mr President, it must be recognised that States in many parts of the world, Botswana included, have little to no capacity with respect to the technical requirements of the Treaty. We appreciate the work that has been carried out thus far on transparency and reporting, and international assistance. We are also encouraged by the assistance programmes that have been established that will enhance technical and legal capacity; develop reporting capacity and strengthen implementation. Ultimately, the success and future of the Treaty depends not only on the number of States Parties, but also on the ability of the States Parties to apply the Treaty effectively.

5. The international community must steadfastly work together to meet the challenges of and atrocities associated with of illicit trade in arms. Regulating trade in conventional weapons, and combating illicit trade in weapons, will contribute to promoting international and regional peace security and stability, socio-economic development as well as to

reduce human suffering. The ATT will achieve the desired objectives if we continue to strive for universality, effective implementation and transparency in reporting. In this endeavour, Mr Chairman, I wish to assure you of Botswana's commitment to work with the international community to achieve the objectives of the ATT to prevent human suffering caused by irresponsible arms transfers.

I thank you.