



## **REMARKS**

**BY**

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**OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY**

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**Co-Presidents,**

**Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,**

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

1. Allow me, on the onset to join others in offering our deepest condolences to the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the passing of President Ebrahim Raisi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and accompanying delegation.
2. It is an honour for me to address this International Conference on Nuclear Security held under the theme 'Shaping the Future' which resonates well with Botswana's national ideals and aspirations.
3. I also join others in congratulating you, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia and First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on your appointment as Co-Presidents, and would like to assure you of the Botswana delegation's full support and cooperation in ensuring that ICONS-2024 is a success.
4. I wish to also thank Co-Chairs for the tireless efforts in facilitating negotiations for the Ministerial Declaration. We regret that the Declaration was not adopted.
5. We commend the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and his team for your tireless efforts in ensuring successful convening of this important Conference, which provides an opportunity to

exchange information, share best practices and foster international cooperation on nuclear security.

**Co-Presidents,**

6. Botswana's national Vision 2036 sets out a compelling national vision of "Achieving Prosperity for All", of which one of the four pillars is Governance, Peace and Security which affirms that a peaceful and secure environment is central to prosperity.
7. It is the responsibility of all of us in shaping the future of the next generations. Our unified actions would determine the legacy we want. We are committed to Global Peace and Security. Therefore, being part of the global nuclear security regime, we are obliged and committed to international security standards.
8. We are alive to the fact that no country is immune to malicious use of nuclear and other radioactive materials. In this regard, Botswana has been pro-active and intentional in contributing to the global peace and security by ratifying and implementing treaties that promote nuclear security.
9. To demonstrate our commitment to global nuclear security, Botswana is party to nuclear security instruments such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment; the Non Proliferation Treaty; the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Africa Nuclear Weapon free zone, known as the Pelindaba Treaty and is also bound by UN Security Council

Resolution 1540 (2004). As it is known these instruments emphasise the importance of international cooperation and joining efforts to ensure nuclear security. Botswana has also signed the Agreement on the Application of Safeguards, and the Protocol Additional to the Agreement.

10. In addition to the above, Botswana supports other nuclear security instruments such as the Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance being; the Supplementary Guidance to the Code of Conduct on the Import and Export of radioactive Sources; and the Guidance on the Management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources.

### **Co-Presidents,**

11. Botswana has made strides in putting legislative instruments and governance structures to ensure nuclear security. Several legislative instruments have been enacted, key amongst them being the Counter-terrorism Act (Act 2014), the Nuclear Weapons (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2022, and the Radiation Protection Act, 2006.
12. The country continues to remain abreast to global nuclear security trends, and is currently reviewing the Radiation Protection Act, 2006 to ensure that Botswana meets her obligations under the relevant international instruments by allowing for the beneficial and justified uses of ionizing radiation; providing for adequate protection of people and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation and for the security of nuclear and radioactive sources. Efforts to bring Regulations up to date are also ongoing to which the IAEA has played a critical role in

drafting regulations on security of nuclear and other radioactive materials during their transportation. We appreciate the IAEA's continued support.

**Co-Presidents,**

13. Botswana has also established an Inter-Agency Team as she recognizes the importance of coordinated national efforts in promoting nuclear security. Through this structure, the National Action Plan under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, has been developed. The Plan seeks to implement key priorities in the Resolution which require States to refrain from providing support to non-State actors to attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.
14. Furthermore, Botswana developed her first Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP) in 2010, and it has been reviewed in 2016, 2019 and 2022 under the guidance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. As part of implementing the Plan, Threat and Risk Assessment and the Nuclear Security Detection Architecture have also been developed. Efforts are ongoing to enhance detection capabilities at ports of entry, and detection instruments are being deployed.
15. To strengthen cooperation and build capacity, Botswana is also participating in other initiatives such as the Interpol Geiger Working Group, which supports Law enforcement Agencies on matters related to nuclear security. Furthermore, through partnership with US-Department of Energy, Office of Radiological Security, Botswana was capacitated in Search and Secure training for material out of regulatory control.

Botswana has also joined the Nuclear Security Support Centres Network and plans to establish a Nuclear Security Support Centre in the future to provide training related to nuclear security.

16. Botswana is cognisant that emerging technologies are essential to improving operations and nuclear security, however concerted efforts are required to minimize risks posed by such technologies.
17. In conclusion, **Co-Presidents**, Botswana wishes to underscore the importance of the central role of the IAEA in nuclear security globally. Therefore, cooperation with the Agency by Member States is key in ensuring that the IAEA effectively implements its role and we wish to encourage States to cooperate with the Agency.
18. I, therefore, wish to reiterate Botswana's unwavering commitment to international peace and security and call for exerted efforts towards nuclear security. We encourage States to adopt and implement comprehensive nuclear safeguards agreement and the additional Protocol.
19. Therefore, Botswana encourages States that have not joined the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment, to do so.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**