

NOTE BY THE BOTSWANA DELEGATION

Mr. President, as this is the first time that we address this meeting, let me congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Fifteenth Meeting of State Parties to the Convention.

Also we express our appreciation to the warm welcome extended by the Government and the People of the Republic of Chile to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Santiago and applaud the efforts in ensuring that this meeting is convened.

Botswana as a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction is strongly committed to the adherence and implementation of the Anti – Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention).

This commitment is demonstrated by the following:

- a. Botswana signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction on the 03rd December 1997 and ratified the Convention on 01st March 2000 and has since neither procured nor transferred anti-personnel mines.
- b. Botswana has kept limited stocks of anti-personal mines for training (Used for detection handling, identification and destruction) in accordance with Article 3 of the Mine Ban Treaty.
- c. Botswana in accordance with Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty has submitted its initial report to the Secretary General of the United Nations as indicated in the Botswana's 2011 Transparency Report to the UN.
- d. As recorded in our previous submissions, Botswana has never used nor does she have any area contaminated with Anti- Personnel mines under her jurisdiction.
- e. Botswana continues to participate in efforts to fight against the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of the Anti – Personnel Mines.

Furthermore, Botswana, however notes with regrets that she has not been consistent in submitting the Transparency Reports to the UN in accordance with Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty. On this note Botswana commits to meet all her obligations by submitting her Annual Reports regarding steps taken to implement the Treaty by the 30th April 2017 in accordance with article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The Botswana Government supports the Convention and will continue to support the efforts against the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of the Anti – Personnel Mines.