



**BOTSWANA STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION AT THE 9<sup>th</sup>  
MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

**2 September 2019, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Mr. President**

1. Mr. President, Botswana wishes to reaffirm her commitment to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We also wish to stress that International Assistance and Cooperation, in terms of financial and technical assistance is of paramount importance in attaining the objectives of this treaty. We hold this view as a beneficiary of technical assistance that helped us to destroy the cluster munitions stockpile we had in our possession.
  
3. Mr. President, Botswana completed her stockpile destruction in 2018, one year ahead of the scheduled deadline of December 2019. This milestone was achieved through the assistance of the Norwegian People's Aid. The training provided during research prior to the actual destruction, remains of invaluable to our country. The methods used for the destruction of the cluster munitions we had in our possession is now envisaged to be used in achieving objectives of other disarmament conventions we are party to.
  
4. Mr. President, Botswana continues to submit her transparency reports to this convention and encourages others who are lagging behind to do so. In conclusion Mr. President, we believe in the universalization agenda of this convention and hereby call on other countries who are not members to endeavor to sign and ratify the treaty for the benefit of humanity.
  
5. I thank you Mr. President.