



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

REMARKS

BY

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**AT THE FOURTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO
CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE ILLICIT
TRADE IN LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL IT'S ASPECTS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 6(d)
OTHER ISSUES, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY ISSUES OR TOPICS OF
RELEVANCE IN THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN
ALL ITS ASPECTS AND OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES**

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE

15 JUNE 2010, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

1.0 Calling for a Culture of Peace is not an endeavour to introduce a new age movement. It is an endeavour to rekindle an enduring truth well known to all of us that peace is the only environment in which the human aspirations of development and happiness can be achieved.

2.0 In my country, it is said that ‘the biggest way of fighting is through the mouth, by talking things out.’ It is undeniable that some violent situations are brought about by oppression, poor governance and political corruption or exclusion.

3.0 What we are being exhorted to do is to accept the inescapable fact that we can create an environment of peace which will eliminate the need for weapons and the violence fuelled by these weapons.

4.0 Blaming manufacturers of small arms and light weapons without accepting some measure of responsibility in creating an environment that causes some to resort to violence equates to burying our heads in the sand.

5.0 Botswana supports this initiative and acknowledges that it indeed advances the principle of the UN Charter.

6.0 The least we can do is to acknowledge that a culture of peace is a critical success factor and commit ourselves to support and implement all initiatives being undertaken by the United Nations aimed at enhancing the culture of peace through whatever forum.

I thank you for your attention.