



STATEMENT

BY

**MR. O. RHEE HETANANG
COUNSELLOR – BOTSWANA MISSION TO UN (GENEVA)
HEAD OF BOTSWANA DELEGATION**

DURING THE

CARTAGENA SUMMIT ON A MINE-FREE WORLD

UNDER THE

**THEMATIC DEBATE ON
UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**1ST DECEMBER 2009
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA**

Madam President,

This being the first time my Delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your election to lead us in this important Meeting to review the status of the Convention, ten years on.

We are confident, Madame President, that under your stewardship, this Conference will achieve its objectives, including under the current Thematic Debate: *Status of Universalization of the Convention*.

My Delegation also seizes this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Colombia for hosting this 2nd Review Conference, and to thank all collaborators who have worked hard to ensure that our work here would be smooth.

Madame President,

It is important that we highlight the fact that Botswana has never produced, nor used, nor stockpiled anti-personnel mines. We are lucky and happy to be mine-free.

We are taking a keen interest in this Thematic Debate, motivated by the common vision of securing a truly **mine-free world**.

Botswana's commitment to this ideal remains intact today as has been for the life of this Convention. We are convinced that successful universalization of the Mine Ban Convention would help all of us realize the common and shared principle of global humanitarianism.

We welcome the progress made in the universalization drive, and wish to warmly welcome the States that have joined the Convention since we last met in 2004 in Nairobi to review the status of the Convention for the first time.

We also thank the Non-State Parties for their updates earlier.

Botswana joins the voices of the many calling on those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Treaty to consider doing so.

Madame President,

Allow me to conclude by reiterating the important motto of A SHARED COMMITMENT.

We are convinced of the need to continue with the atmosphere of goodwill and a culture of cooperation between States, the United Nations agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

As we enter the second decade of the life of this Convention, we believe that **WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS IMPORTANT GOAL**, if we all agree to equally apply our political will towards the common vision of a **MINE FREE WORLD**.

Finally, **Madame President**, my Delegation wishes to commend the Implementation Support Unit which remains particularly instrumental in promoting universalization of the Convention, as well as compliance.

We also thank the ICBL, in this context, for their continued exemplary work in providing a platform to achieve the nobility of universalization of this Convention.

I thank you.