



OPCW

Executive Council

109th Session
8 – 11 July 2025

EC-109/S/9
7 May 2025
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

NOMINATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. At its 108th Session, the Executive Council (the Council) adopted a decision on the “Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the Next Director-General in 2025” (EC-108/DEC.5, dated 6 March 2025), requesting the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council’s behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by no later than 16 May 2025, to enable their consideration by the Council.
2. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Botswana to the OPCW has submitted to the Technical Secretariat a note verbale informing it of the nomination of H.E. Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba as candidate for the position of Director-General.
3. In accordance with EC-108/DEC.5, the above-mentioned note verbale is herewith conveyed to the members of the Council.

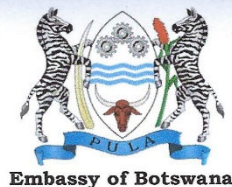
Annex (English only):

Note Verbale No. 67/2025 EB 5/2/2 I (95) B4 from the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Botswana to the OPCW Dated 7 May 2025



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE NO. 67/2025 EB 5/2/2 I (95) B4 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE OPCW
DATED 7 MAY 2025**



Embassy of Botswana

NOTE 67/2025 EB 5/2/2 I (95) B4

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Botswana to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat and with further reference to letter of the Chairman of the Executive Council of the OPCW, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral dated 10 March 2025, has the honour to forward attached Diplomatic Note from the Ministry of International Relations of the Republic of Botswana informing of the nomination of Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba as candidate for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana further wishes to forward endorsement letter from the Minister of International Relations of the Republic of Botswana, Honourable Dr. Phenyio Butale as well as the Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba.

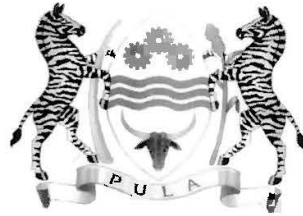
The Permanent Mission kindly requests that this communication is circulated amongst State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.

Brussels, 7 May 2025

**TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS - OPCW
THE HAGUE**





REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

NOTE NO. 5/2025

The Ministry of International Relations of the Republic of Botswana presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Botswana presents Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, Ambassador of Botswana to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW, as candidate for the position of Director - General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, at elections scheduled for November 2025 during the 30th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the OPCW.

The Ministry of International Relations of the Republic of Botswana avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.

Gaborone,
7th May 2025

Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague



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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT ENCLAVE
PRIVATE BAG 00368, GABORONE

EA 24/22 CVI (23)

7 MAY 2025

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Botswana, I have the honour to formally present Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, Botswana's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW, as a candidate for the position of Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The Government of Botswana endorses Ambassador Masire-Mwamba's candidacy and is confident that she possesses the vision, leadership, and expertise necessary to guide the OPCW in fulfilling its critical mandate under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

With over 30 years of senior-level experience in the fields of business, development and multilateral diplomacy, Ambassador Masire-Mwamba possesses the scientific and legal skills and experience to guide the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in addressing complex challenges faced globally.

Ambassador Masire-Mwamba has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to multilateral cooperation through leadership and oversight positions in the Commonwealth Secretariat based in London, and most recently championing reform in the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) in Brussels and the development of the Strategic Plan for the Common Fund for Commodities. I have no doubt that Ambassador Masire-Mwamba's tenure as Permanent Representative of Botswana to the OPCW has equipped her with the necessary insights into the OPCW's technical, legal, and policy dimensions.

The Government of Botswana urges all OPCW Member States to support Ambassador Masire-Mwamba's candidacy in the upcoming selection process. We are confident that she will serve the organisation with honour and distinction.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Phenyo Butale (PhD)

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

H.E Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral

Chairperson of the Executive Council of the OPCW
THE HAGUE

MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA BSC. MBA. LLB **Honorary Bencher Middle Temple Inn**

Nationality: **Botswana**

March 2025

BOTSWANA CANDIDATE: Director General- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba is the Ambassador of Botswana to the Kingdom of Belgium, accredited to the Benelux countries, Italy and the European Union; She also represents the Government of Botswana on the governance structures of the Organisation of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States OACPS, the International Criminal Court, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Formerly, she served as Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland. She recently chaired the Crisis Working Group of Ambassadors to localise the extent and nature of factors of the crisis at the OACPS; in that capacity, together with her team, they developed a roadmap for the restart and reform of the Organisation. She has served as the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat with over 30 years of senior-level experience in various fields, from business to multilateral diplomacy. Her educational qualifications include a BSc degree in Physics & Electronics, a Master's in Business Administration, and an LLB. Degree.

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE: HIGHLIGHTS

Government Relations	Coordination and consultations with leaders on governance and political leadership including presidential and parliamentary election processes. Engaging key stakeholders to foster relationships with Heads of Government, Ministers and civil society. Commonwealth Elections Observer Chairman - Lesotho 2016; National Democratic Institute Elections Observer Mission – Ghana 2016,
Multilateral leadership and governance	Multilateral leadership and governance, First hand experience at leadership of three intergovernmental organisations, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, chairman of the OACPS Crisis Working Group of Ambassadors provided enhanced diplomatic skills, governance, and problem solving. Experience on the OPCW's Board provides for a strong understanding of the organization; This experience provides insight into the challenges faced by the OPCW and the dynamics among member states.
Scientific Knowledge	A telecommunications practitioner with keen interest in appropriate use and the impact of technology on development. Her Bsc. In Physics and Electronics is particularly advantageous in technical discussions regarding the science and technological aspects of chemical weapons. It demonstrates a capability to understand and engage in policy discussions about current and emerging scientific issues.
Communication and Leadership Skills	Effective communication skills and demonstrated leadership to rally stakeholders towards common objectives. The ability to convey complex scientific and legal information to a varied audience.

APPOINTMENTS

BOTSWANA AMBASSADOR (2018-2025)

- Ambassador of Botswana to Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the European Union.
- Ambassador of Botswana to the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland.

Representing Botswana and promoting bilateral and multilateral issues. Promoting people-to-people diplomacy, focusing on business and cultural diplomacy. Active participation in management and leadership portfolios, including as Chair of the OACPS Crisis Committee and Vice Chair of the CFC. Chair of the OACPS Sustainable Development Committee on the impact of climate change and measures to enhance the resilience of Member States.

INDEPENDENT ADVISORY SERVICES (2014-2018)

- National and regional projects, including SACU (Namibia): Lead Consultant, Southern African Customs Union, SACU Study to assess the export market and investment opportunities in the EFTA markets in 2017-2018. Spatial Programmes, Executive Coaching, certified training services provider and Board Assessments.

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

2008 – 2014 Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat (London)

Leading working visits for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, assisting member states in addressing complex and challenging issues. Promoting a multisectoral approach in responding to emerging issues and managing the relationship on behalf of the Commonwealth. Broad-based facilitation and engagement on democracy, human rights, legal and youth programmes.

- Rule of Law strengthening civil and criminal justice systems whilst promoting the separation of powers and enhancing the independence of the judiciary. Special focus on cybercrime and modalities for cooperation in civil and criminal justice across the Commonwealth membership.
- Political and Government relations oversaw election monitoring and assessment. Secretariat for Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and the Secretary General's 'Good Offices' to promote peaceful resolution of political tension, adhere to fundamental political values, and support fair, credible and inclusive elections.
- Youth enterprise and engagement across the Commonwealth Established the Commonwealth youth-led, pan-Commonwealth Network to increase youth development and youth-led programming capacity—facilitated dialogue between Youth Leaders and Heads of Government to encourage and strengthen youth empowerment and effective participation.
- Identified and promoted best practices in Human Rights Protection – establishing, developing and strengthening national human rights institutions across Member States, providing assistance and facilitation for the Universal Periodic Review.

2003 -2007 Chief Executive Officer, Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority

- Foreign Direct Investment Promotion advocacy and promotion strategies were adopted as holistic approaches to facilitate and advocate for a business-friendly environment at the national and government levels.
- Extensive collaboration and coordination ensured strategic partnerships between the corporate sector and the government. Roadshows, research, and inward missions to promote, facilitate, and advocate for sector-specific investment.
- Developed and coordinated Botswana's national branding strategy – Brand Botswana and the launch of the country's premier exhibition, Global Expo Botswana. Established regional offices in South Africa and the United Kingdom.

1986 – 2002 Assistant Engineer /Group Manager, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation:

- Managing and supervising the technical aspects of the national telecommunications network. Positioning the corporation for regulation and transition from a state-owned monopoly to a competitive and liberalised market operator.

1998- 1999 Business Development Manager, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, London:

Established a business development network and oversaw the Annual General Meeting of Chief Executives and Regulators in the changing regulatory and liberalisation landscape of telecommunications.

EDUCATION

2013 University of Navarra, IESE, Spain, Advanced Management Program.

2011 University of South Africa, UNISA, Bachelor of Laws.

1990 University of Pittsburgh USA, MBA.
Master of Business Administration (Finance and International Business).

1983 University of London, Chelsea College Bachelor of Science. Electronics and Physics.

DEMOCRACY/ ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION

- **Lesotho**, Presidential and Parliamentary elections, leader of the Commonwealth Observer Mission. 2016
 - **Ghana**, presidential and parliamentary elections, and a member of the National Democratic Institute Election Observer Mission. 2016
 - **Pittsburgh USA**, International Leaders Forum, 2016 National Democratic Convention. 2016
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PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS PROFILE

- **OACPS Chair of Crisis** committee, Communicating extensively on different platforms to present the issues and secure the vital support of key stakeholders in addressing critical issues to reform and redress the crisis.
 - **Botswana**, Various Presentations and interviews showcasing Botswana's potential and responding to issues and opportunities. Cabinet Briefs, Board Presentations, Regular Press and Public Engagement.
 - **BBC 100 Women**, One of the first 100 participants of the global gathering of BBC series that informs strategy and promotes gender equality - 2014.
 - **Rendezvous with Zeinab Badawi**: BBC World Service, on a panel with President Musharraf, former President of Pakistan – 2012.
 - **World BBC Radio Commentary** with Business leaders on Global business trends -2012.
 - **Institute of Directors-headline Speaker** Women's conference-London - 2011.
 - **Gladwyn lecture**: Women as a force for Development, Annual lecture Series- House of Lords, London United Kingdom - 2009.
 - **Middle Temple Lecture**: Constitutional Development in the Commonwealth, London, Annual Lecture Series - 2009.
 - **BBC World Debate**: On a panel with the British Foreign Secretary and Bangladesh Foreign Minister on the future of the Commonwealth - 2009.
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PREVIOUS BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Women in Business Association Botswana: President.
- Botswana Tourism Board: Chairman.
- Botswana Civil Aviation Board: Board member.
- Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Ltd: Board member.
- University of Botswana Foundation: Trustee.
- Assistant Patron, Women's Shelter (a shelter for domestic violence survivors).
- Godisa Technologies (technologies for the Hearing Impaired), Botswana.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- ESSA, Education Sub-Saharan Africa – former Patron.
- Pittsburgh Business School Vice Chancellor's Global Advisory Council- Member.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Founder of the Mentoring Together platform for intergenerational and peer mentoring.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

- Painting and Artistic expression. Reading, Writing and Football.