**Statement by Botswana during the Review of the Kingdom of Morocco at the 13th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**(22th May 2012, Geneva)**

Madam President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the second cycle of the review of their country.
2. We commend the Government of Morocco for its national report, especially the positive steps the country has taken towards the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR.
3. Also worth noting is the many institutional reforms by Morocco in the area of human rights. These include the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Unit on Human Rights, responsible for preparing and implementing Government policy on human rights; the establishment of the National Human Rights Council in accordance with the Paris Principles; and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman.
4. What is even more encouraging is the prominence of human rights in Morocco’s new Constitution, and the country’s efforts to integrate human rights education into the school curricula, programmes and manuals.
5. Botswana has one question and one recommendation for the Kingdom of Morocco.
6. ***Question:*** In light of allegations of arbitrary detentions and trafficking in persons, would Morocco consider extending invitations to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; and to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children?
7. ***Recommendation:*** That Morocco considers putting in place measures or legislation to ensure prevention and punishment of acts of violence against women, and to ensure that rapists did not evade criminal prosecution by marrying their victims.

I thank you, Madam President!