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**Statement by Botswana during the Review of the Netherlands  
at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

(31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, Geneva)

Madam President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the second cycle of the review of their country.
2. We commend the Government of the Netherlands for its comprehensive national report, especially the initiative taken to submit an interim report in 2010 on the recommendations issued in 2008. This is a clear demonstration of the Netherlands' commitment on the implementation of recommendations from its reviews.
3. We also wish to commend the Netherlands for ratifying the three conventions, the OP-CAT, OP-CRC-CA and CED following their review from the first cycle.
4. Botswana welcomes the constitutional and institutional reforms taken, among others, the 2010 referendum in granting the islands of Curaçao and St Maarten the status of countries within the Kingdom, and

the establishment of the Children's Ombudsman in 2011 which operates independently to promote the observance of the rights of children and young people in line with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

5. While noting the autonomy of the Caracao as a new state, and that its administrative apparatus have not yet been established, Botswana would like to know how the Government of the Netherlands intends to address implementation.

6. Botswana has one recommendation to Government of the Netherlands, that is: to take measures to address concerns of racial discrimination in the application of its national policies.

7. Finally, we wish the Netherlands a successful review and adoption of their report.

8. I thank you!