

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

(30th May 2012, Geneva)

Madam President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Poland to the second cycle of the review of their country.
2. We commend the Government of Poland for its national report, especially the positive steps the country has taken towards implementation of recommendations from the first cycle.
3. We have noted with interest the significant strides Poland has made in terms of institutional and legislative reforms, as well as national programmes in the area of human rights. These include institutions such as the Ombudsman for Children's Rights, tasked with the promotion of children's rights to health care, decent social conditions and to education, among others; and the National Consulting and Intervention Centre (KCIK) for Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking, which was set up as part of the Program of support and protection to victims and witnesses of human trafficking.

4. Botswana also welcomes Poland's adoption of a number of measures and nation-wide programmes with a view to address overcrowding and generally to improve conditions in correctional facilities. The recognition award from the Council of Europe and the European Union in 2009 clearly signifies the importance of these measures.

5. While commending you for measures such as alternative punishment to imprisonment, we will appreciate it if the delegation could clarify further how punishment in the form of electronic surveillance is implemented.

6. The Polish family policy is another commendable step, which enables people to balance their work and family life. Of particular interest is the new law on care for children under the age of three, which is said "to provide a real choice between raising children at home and benefitting from care over a small child outside home in different forms". We will appreciate it if the delegation could shed more light as to how this is applied.

7. We welcome the implementation of the National Employment Action Plan, which according to the national report, has helped mitigate the effects of the economic crisis on employment. However, we have noted that the percentage of people employed in the agricultural sector has decreased, while the percentage of people employed in the non-agricultural sector has increased. We would like to find out whether this was a deliberate policy of placing more emphasis on industry over agriculture.

8. Botswana further welcomes the establishment of the Council for Counteracting Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. We hope the Council will be adequately resourced to effectively work toward eradicating racism, xenophobia, other forms of discrimination and related intolerance.

9. The introduction of a new educational curriculum for schools, which covers issues of protection and full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, is also a significant milestone in the country's efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

10. Finally, we wish Poland a successful review and adoption of their report.

11. I thank you!