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

(31st May 2012, Geneva)

Madam President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes His Excellency Mr. Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development of South Africa, and his delegation to the second cycle of the review of their country.

2. We commend the Government of South Africa for its comprehensive national report. Botswana, as friend and neighbour, fully understands South Africa's historical struggle for human dignity. Three-and-half centuries of deeply entrenched racial discrimination and hatred are not easy to surmount.

3. We note with satisfaction progress made thus far in development in general, social cohesion and national reconciliation, as well as in addressing human rights issues.

4. The formulation and implementation of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (2009–2014), especially in the social, economic, security and governance areas, clearly demonstrates the country's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

5. Initiatives in the areas of gender, child protection, disability and related institutional arrangements, are also noteworthy. We are confident that South Africa will spare no effort in the implementation of her human rights commitments.

6. Finally, we wish South Africa a successful review and adoption of their report.

7. I thank you!