**Statement by Botswana during the Review of Tunisia**

**at the 13th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

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

Madam President,

Let me join my other colleagues in warmly welcoming the delegation of Tunisia to the second cycle of the review of their country.

May I also commend the Government of Tunisia for the positive steps they have taken towards the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR, and for other voluntary undertakings to protect and promote human rights. That the Government of Tunisia has managed to make human rights a priority despite the pressures of a major political transition clearly demonstrates the country’s new political outlook, with a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Some of the commendable milestones include ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the election of the National Constituent Assembly in October last year tasked with, among others, the drafting of a new constitution.

Botswana has just two recommendations for Tunisia.

1. That Tunisia considers including provisions against torture in its new constitution to ensure effective redress for victims of torture; and
2. That Tunisia considers including provisions to ensure equality of men and women, as well as protection and promotion of women’s rights in its new constitution.

I thank you, Madam President!