

STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF SRI LANKA AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

(1st November 2012, GENEVA)

1. Madam President, Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks them for a comprehensive national report.
2. We commend Sri Lanka for various measures taken, including the successful resettlement programme for the IDPs, extensive demining, progress on rehabilitation and reintegration, initiatives on housing and language policy, and general economic development. These achievements deserve recognition. Dialogue with the Council is also appreciated.
3. Botswana also welcomes the plan for the implementation of recommendations of the LLRC. We also note progress made thus far.
4. This notwithstanding, could the Government shed more light on what she proposes to do regarding accountability for allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, allegedly committed by both parties during the last

stages of the conflict? Are independent investigations being considered?

5. Furthermore, could the Government share with us how she proposes to deal with serious concerns, including from the UN Secretary General, of abuse and harassment of human rights defenders?

6. We recommend that assistance of the international community, including relevant experiences, be sought for the implementation of the LLRC recommendations.

7. Finally, we wish Sri Lanka a successful review and adoption of their report.

I thank you!