

## **Botswana**

### **Question:**

In 2008, Canada recommended that Botswana increase its efforts to raise awareness of the precedence of constitutional law over customary laws and practices so as to promote equality between men and women. We note with satisfaction the efforts made by the Government of Botswana to promote the empowerment of women as well as the protection of their rights. Could the Delegation of Botswana inform us of plans to continue these efforts and how it intends to address continued concerns about inequality under customary laws and practices?

### **Recommendations:**

Canada recommends that Botswana:

1. Take the necessary measures to ensure sexual assault perpetrated by a spouse is explicitly covered by the criminal code and educate chiefs and other customary law practitioners so that their decisions are in line with constitutional law, particularly with respect to marriage and property rights.
2. Engage in a dialogue to repeal laws which criminalize consensual adult same sex relations.

### **Observations:**

Canada applauds Botswana's consistent commitment to upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens, and its commitment to democracy and governance as well as its efforts to empower women through measures such as education.

Canada also notes with appreciation Botswana's unfailing defense of human rights in regional and international fora, and encourages it to continue working with its partners in the region to spread a culture of respect for human rights.