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## UN Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review of Botswana

### Oral Interventions from Ireland

Thank you Mr President,

Ireland thanks the delegation of Botswana for the presentation of its national report and acknowledges the good progress made by the Government of Botswana in seeking to strengthen the protection and promotion of Human Rights.

In particular, Ireland welcomes the establishment of the Coordinating Office for People with Disabilities and the decision of the Government of Botswana in late 2012 to establish an NGO-Government Council.

We note that Botswana rejected Ireland's 2008 recommendation to engage with ethnic groups to ensure their rights to equality and non-discrimination are guaranteed. On this occasion, Ireland notes with concern the continuing issues relating to equal rights for minority tribes and encourages Botswana to ensure relevant Judgements of its Courts are implemented, in particular, in relation to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

Ireland welcomes measures that have been taken to raise awareness of women's rights. We also welcome efforts to mainstream gender in various sectors in the country, most notably the employment and education sector, which has resulted in the repeal of a number of discriminatory laws, policies and practices. At the same time, as UNICEF noted in 2011, it is a matter of concern that three out of every five women are reportedly subjected to gender based violence.

Ireland recommends that Botswana enact specific legislation on <sup>marital rape</sup> ~~domestic violence~~ to ensure that <sup>all</sup> violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence, that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection; and that alleged perpetrators are prosecuted.

In the previous UPR for Botswana Ireland urged the abolition of the death penalty. Ireland recommends that Botswana agree to a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to ultimate abolition.