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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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Statement by Mr. Madjumo S. Maruta, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Namibia to UNOG  
UPR of Botswana, 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR,  
23 January 2013

Madame President,

Namibia warmly welcomes H.E. Mr. Seretse, the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, and his delegation to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR.

Botswana's efforts over the years to improve the promotion and protection of human rights are commendable. The Government has increased its budget for the empowerment of women through the National Gender Programme, focused on economic and social upliftment of women both in rural and urban areas. My delegation takes note with appreciation the enactment of the Children's Act of 2009, which makes provision for increased inter-ministerial coordination on children's issues. The Government has further introduced youth development programmes targeted at poverty reduction, providing youth with technical and financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, and capacity building. In addition, the Government of the Republic of Botswana's commitment to sponsor a high number of tertiary students every year, speaks volumes of the country's belief in human development.

Namibia recommends to the Republic of Botswana to:

1. Abolish the death penalty or put a moratorium on its use.
2. Continue to strengthen the rights of women, particularly in the family setting.
3. Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strengthen the right of the citizens of Botswana to economic development.

I thank you Madame President.

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Head of Mission