

Universal Periodic Review 15 – Botswana**Intervention by the Netherlands**

Minister of Defence, Justice & Security
 Dikgakgamatso Ramadeluko
 Seretse

Madam President,

The Netherlands would like to thank the government of Botswana for its national report and the extensive explanation by mr/mrs..... today at the interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in Botswana.

The Netherlands has submitted questions in advance, and has taken note of the answers provided by the government of Botswana today.

The Netherlands commends the government of Botswana on its general human rights situation and the progress made after the last UPR review of Botswana in 2009. However, challenges remain. One of these challenges is the eradication of discrimination and violence against women and girls within Botswana. Therefore, we recommend the government of Botswana to take concrete measures to ensure a safer environment for both women and girls.

Secondly, the Netherlands is concerned about the situation of LGBT within Botswana; same sex activities are criminalized nationally and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is still a threat to all lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people. We therefore recommend the government of Botswana to decriminalize same sex activities and adopt policies to counter discrimination against LGBT.

Thank you, Madam President.

Reinout Vos
 Vice-Ambassador