



SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE 15TH SESSION OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

23 JANUARY 2013

PALAIS DES NATIONS

REVIEW OF BOTSWANA

Handwritten: Mr President,

Mr President,

Check against delivery

The South African delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Botswana to the 15th Session of the Working Group. We congratulate Botswana on the submission of their national report and also appreciate the update provided during the presentation. We also wish to commend the Government of Botswana for the strong and stable democratic system in place in the country, one which has proven resilient.

We appreciate that the national report sets out Botswana's vision for the promotion and protection of the human rights of its citizens. It is clear from the priorities identified that the Government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law, notwithstanding the obstacles and constraints present.

Following the acceptance of the recommendation to consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in 2008, and the subsequent consultations with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, **South Africa would recommend the Government of Botswana prioritise the establishment of the national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles and ensure the necessary allocation of human and financial resources to the institution.**

The expectations of Botswana in relation to technical assistance are also clearly outlined in the report. A number of key areas are identified by the Government which would assist in the promotion and protection of the human rights of the citizens of Botswana. South Africa calls on the international community to assist Botswana with the requested capacity building and technical assistance. **South Africa further recommends that the Government of Botswana should consider prioritizing the stated objective of developing a comprehensive national action plan for human rights and we recommend that human rights training be provided on an on-going basis for the disciplined forces.**

Madam Vice President,

Mr President,

Botswana remains an important member of the South African Development Community and the African Union and has contributed to the greatly to the development of both these organisations on the Continent. Through programmes such as their Vision 2016 the Government continues to displays its aspirations to improve the Nation as a whole and thus continuing to contribute to the advancement of the Continent. As an important neighbor to South Africa, our Nation continues to enjoy good bilateral relations with Botswana.

I thank you.