



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Review of Botswana - 23 January 2013**

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Botswana to the second cycle of its UPR.

We are encouraged by the Government's strong commitment to eradicate poverty, as illustrated through the National Strategy introduced in 2009 and through economic diversification, and note the gradual decline of poverty over the years.

We acknowledge efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and children through various legislative measures such as the Domestic Violence Act of 2008 and the adoption of the Children's Act in 2009. Initiatives such as the 'Circles of Support Programme' introduced to track and re-admit students who dropped out of the educational system, are also noteworthy. However, my delegation notes with concern that as per UNICEF, in 2011, three out of every five women in Botswana were subjected to gender-based violence.

Cognizant that the youth is a crucial component in the development of a country, we take particular note of the various youth development programmes put in place since 2009, which encompasses cultural, economic, educational and recreational activities.

We note that that there has been significant resource allocation to the health sector making it possible to bring medical care centres closer to the majority of the population.

In closing, Sri Lanka would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Botswana:

1. Strengthen national frameworks and mechanisms to effectively address and combat violence against women and girls;
2. Further develop measures to combat HIV/AIDS, with special focus on reducing infant and child mortality.

Thank you.