**Statement by Botswana during the Review of Burkina Faso at the 16th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**(22th April 2013, Geneva)**

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso to the second cycle of the review of their country.
2. We commend the Government of Burkina Faso for its national report, especially the positive steps the country has taken towards the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR.
3. The holding of a feedback workshop and a briefing session for Members of Parliament on the country’s first UPR; as well as the development of an action plan to implement the recommendations of treaty bodies and the UPR, among others, clearly demonstrate Burkina Faso’s commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.
4. Worth noting from Burkina Faso’s national report are the many institutional and policy reforms in the area of human rights. These include the establishment of the of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Responsibility; establishment of regional human rights directorates, as well as human rights counselling and documentation centres.
5. Other commendable efforts include the development of the national policy on human rights and the promotion of civic responsibility 2013–2022; the Special Job Creation Programme for Young People and Women 2012–2014; and the national health policy 2011–2020.
6. Botswana wishes to find out from the delegation if there are any measures to be put in place to deal with harmful cultural practices such as female circumcision, social exclusion of persons accused of witchcraft, and women’s rights to land.
7. We recommend that the international community should heed Burkina Faso’s request for capacity-building and technical assistance in the implementation of its agreed recommendations and other human rights programmes.

I thank you, Mr. President!