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**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF
CANADA AT THE 16TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(26 April 2013, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Canada, and wishes to thank them for their national report, as well as the comprehensive update they presented this morning.

2. Canada's report clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms – clearly underpinned by the expressed cardinal values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

3. In this connection, we note with satisfaction Canada's commitment to a Joint Action Plan with the Assembly of First Nations. This is a welcome development that will allow Aboriginal groups to govern their internal affairs, and to assume greater responsibility and control over decisions that affect their communities.

4. Canada's commitment towards the empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups, including through the Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act, is also worth noting.

5. Let me conclude by making the following two (2) recommendations for the kind consideration by Canada:

- i) That Canada continues its laudable efforts to fight all forms of violence against women and girls. We might borrow a leaf or two from Canada's experience in this area as we continue to grapple with such issues in Botswana.
- ii) That Canada should continue to strengthen measures to eliminate racial profiling, especially in law enforcement actions and racial discrimination in employment.

I thank you, Mr. President!