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Mr. PALAI, MOTHSI BRUCE RABASHA

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR OF BOTSWANA DURING THE  
REVIEW OF CUBA AT THE 16<sup>TH</sup> UPR SESSION

(April 2013, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Cuba and congratulates them for the comprehensive national report.
2. Having listened to the informative update by the delegation this afternoon, Botswana wishes to make the following two (2) recommendations for the kind consideration by Cuba:
  - i) Continue efforts to strengthen participatory democracy, as a way of ensuring participation of citizens in public affairs.
  - ii) Continue efforts to strengthen measures to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights including social, political, economic and cultural rights.
3. Mr. President, we note with appreciation the comprehensive measures by Cuba in the field of human rights including the attainment of the MDGs 1, 2, 3 and 4, despite many decades of economic blockade.
4. Cuba has also done well in increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions, including in Parliament.

5. Botswana also greatly appreciates the active participation of Cuba in the work of the Human Rights Council. We therefore encourage Cuba to continue her important role in the development and strengthening of the international human rights regime.

I thank you, Mr. President.