

**Statement by Botswana (Charles Masole - DPR) during the  
Review of Russia at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR**

(April 2013, Geneva)

1. Botswana welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation and congratulates them for their comprehensive National Report.
2. Botswana notes with appreciation the measures taken in implementing recommendations from the first review.
3. In particular, we note the decision taken to accede to and to ratify additional human rights treaties to which Russia was not party.
4. We also welcome the coming into effect of the law on free legal assistance in January 2012, establishing State guarantees to ensure that citizens can exercise their right to obtain qualified legal assistance free of charge throughout the country.
5. We wish to make the following two (2) recommendations for the kind consideration by the Russian Federation:
  - i) Continue efforts to address hate crimes and racially motivated attacks against ethnic and religious minorities, including racial profiling by law enforcement personnel.

- ii) Effectively address the serious concerns regarding the situation of human rights defenders, expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and a number of treaty bodies, including the CAT, the HR Committee and CEDAW.

I thank you, Mr. President.