

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF
MAURITIUS AT THE 17TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(23 October 2013, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Mauritius led by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs to their second UPR.

2. We commend Mauritius for its implementation of most of the recommendations from the first review. We particularly note with appreciation the country's legislative reforms in the area of human rights, following its first review. These include the adoption of the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act 2012, the Police Complaints Act 2012, the National Preventive Mechanism Act 2012, and the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, among others.

3. Botswana also welcomes the strengthening of human rights institutions, including the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission; the broadening of the mandate of the Human Rights Commission; and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (2012-2020), as well as the establishment of a multi-stakeholders Committee to ensure its effective implementation.

4. We also welcome ratification by Mauritius of the CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

5. All these measures are in-keeping with the credentials of Mauritius as a democratic country with a commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. There are nonetheless areas which require continued attention. One such area relates to discrimination on the basis of various grounds including race. The others relate to sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

7. We therefore recommend the strengthening of measures aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity.

8. We also recommend that Mauritius should strengthen measures aimed at fighting human trafficking, including addressing its root causes and exploitation of women and girls.

9. In conclusion, we wish Mauritius success in their review and adoption of their UPR report.

I thank you!