

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF  
CAMBODIA AT THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL  
PERIODIC REVIEW**

*(28 January 2014, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Cambodia to their second UPR.
2. We commend the Government of Cambodia for accepting all recommendations made during its first UPR. We note with satisfaction progress made in the implementation of some of the recommendations made then; in particular, the accession to the Optional Protocols of the CEDAW. Achievements made in health, in particular, maternal mortality are also notable.
3. Botswana also commends the Government of Cambodia for the measures taken in eliminating discrimination against women, and raising gender awareness. These include, among others, the Law on Prevention from Domestic Violence, Penal and Civil Codes, and Criminal and Civil Procedures.
4. We note with concern reports of harassment, intimidation, violence, arbitrary arrests, and curtailment of freedom of expression and assembly. Some or all of these are said to affect human rights defenders, journalists and civil society among others.

5. In this connection, Botswana recommends that the Government of Cambodia adopt legislative and other measures which promote the enjoyment of freedom of expression.

6. Also of concern are reports of infringement on the independence of the judiciary, with the result that the rule of law is undermined. We recommend that measures be taken which promote the independence of the judiciary in law and practice.

7. In conclusion, we wish Cambodia success in their review and adoption of their UPR report.

I thank you!