

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

*(31 January 2014, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Comoros to their second UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.
2. Botswana notes with satisfaction efforts made in implementing recommendations made in 2009. The holding of democratic elections at the national and local levels is commendable.
3. Botswana also welcomes the establishment of the Supreme Court, which would strengthen the administration of justice and adherence to the rule of law. We encourage Comoros to continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights.
4. We are aware of Comoros' geographical position, which makes it vulnerable to the problem of human trafficking. This, as shown in the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees, has put significant challenges on the country to deal with issues of human trafficking. In that regard, Botswana would like to know what measures the Government intends to put in place to combat this vice.

5. We also understand that the Government of Comoros was to submit to Parliament by the end of 2013, the new Criminal Code which introduced more severe penalties for child labour and human trafficking. Botswana would like to know the status of the new Criminal Code.

6. Botswana makes the following two recommendations to consider:

(i) ratify the ICCPR and CAT,

(ii) undertake a thorough assessment of the issue of trafficking in persons and take adequate measures, including enactment of adequate legislation to combat the practice as recommended by the UNHCR.

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

I thank you!