

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

*(3 February 2014, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Eritrea to UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.

2. We note legislative and policy measures undertaken by Eritrea since the last review. In addition, progress in the achievement of the MDGs 4,5 and 6 is particularly notable, making Eritrea one of three top achievers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

3. Good progress has also been made in the areas of gender equality, provision of education including those with special needs, the use of mother tongue, and access to water. The reported intensification of the campaign against FGM also deserves recognition. Altogether, systems review, expansions and capacity building in the Education and Health sectors appear to be paying dividends.

4. We note that with regards to civil and political rights, the record shows a significant deficit. There are reports of disappearances, torture, detentions without trial, interference with the justice system, restrictions on the enjoyment of freedom of movement, expression, and right to participate in public and

political life. The Special Rapporteur also reports lack of cooperation from Government.

5. We therefore encourage the Government to strengthen the rule of law, and in general, bring to par, the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

6. It is in this spirit that Botswana makes the following recommendations;

(i) offer cooperation and access to the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea,

(ii) take policy and other measures which ensure the enjoyment of freedom of expression, opinion and assembly.

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

I thank you!