

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF YEMEN
AT THE 18TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(30 January 2014, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Yemen to their second UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.
2. We commend Yemen for the tremendous efforts made in addressing the challenges that affect its capacity to promote and protect human rights, particularly following the events that have taken place in that country since the outbreak of political unrest and protests in 2011.
3. For any country that endeavours to promote and protect human rights, it is important to stabilize the political, security, economic and governance situation to effectively implement its international obligations.
4. We note with concern reports of various human rights violations in Yemen. These include reports of restrictions of freedom of expression, religion, association and peaceful assembly, torture, amputation of limbs, domestic violence, trafficking of women and children, use of children as soldiers and for sexual and other exploitative purposes, and arbitrary detentions, are among the many human rights violations in Yemen.
5. Botswana makes the following two recommendations;

(i) ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC),

(ii) intensify efforts to end harmful traditional customs such as female genital mutilation; and recruitment of children as soldiers.

6. In conclusion, we wish Yemen success in their review and adoption of their UPR report.

I thank you!