



**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF BHUTAN
AT THE 19TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(30 April 2014, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Bhutan to their second UPR, and thank them for the informative national report.

2. We note with satisfaction efforts made to implement recommendations made during their last review, in particular initiatives undertaken that seek to establish a comprehensive social protection system that advances the welfare of the people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, and economically disadvantaged individuals.

3. We commend the Government of Bhutan for the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 2013. The Act criminalises acts of domestic violence and providing protection services to victims and survivors, including shelter and security.

4. Botswana notes with concern reports of child labour in the service sector as domestic helpers or in hotels and the agricultural sector. Of serious concern are reports of children being subjected to the worst forms of child labour and abuse in the form of confinement, denial of food and leisure, and sexual abuse.

5. We therefore urge the Government of Bhutan to implement the Child Care and Protection Act of 2011 to strengthen the legal framework for the care and protection of children.

6. Botswana makes the following two recommendations;

(i) Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and

(ii) Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

I thank you.