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

(5 May 2014, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica to their second UPR, and thanks them for the additional information presented today.
2. We wish to express appreciation for Costa Rica's democratic credentials, as well as strong advocacy for the promotion and protection of human rights. The principled positions Costa Rica takes on human rights issues are exemplary.
3. We welcome efforts made in addressing domestic violence, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and child labour. The establishment of institutional bodies to combat these violations is commendable.
4. Botswana is encouraged by Costa Rica's efforts and commitment to address equality and non-discrimination, in particular, the implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity.
5. We note that there are areas which still require attention, such as trafficking in persons, reports of discriminatory traditional practices and some religious beliefs which hamper the advancement of women.

6. We recommend that:

i) Costa Rica strengthens up measures to combat trafficking in children, facilitate access to justice, and enhance victim protection and assistance in line with the CRC recommendation; and

ii) put in place measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices and raise awareness for attitudes change in relation to discriminatory gender roles in line with the CEDAW recommendation.

7. We wish Costa Rica success in her endeavour to promote and protect human rights.

I thank you!