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STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF COTE D'IVOIRE AT THE 19TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

(29 April 2014, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Cote D'Ivoire to their second UPR.
2. We congratulate the Cote D'Ivoire for her resilience and commitment to promote and protect human rights despite military and political crisis, and the post-election crisis of 2002 and 2010 respectively. The two unfortunate events, as illustrated in their national report, have indeed had a considerable negative impact on the country's capacity to maintain and build on the achievements made in the enjoyment of human rights, good governance and rule of law.
3. We note efforts made in implementing recommendations made in 2009, in particular, ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC, and reforms of legislative and administration of justice.
4. We encourage Cote D'Ivoire to continue her efforts in the fight against poverty, and promotion of civil and political rights, while mindful of the challenges and constraints they face.

5. We are however concerned that discrimination and violence against women continues to exist in Cote D'Ivoire, and that there is no legislation on the prohibition of discrimination against women.

6. We **recommend** that Cote D'Ivoire:

(i) enact legislation dealing with prohibiting violence against women and implement it in law and practice,

(ii) develop a comprehensive policy aimed at strengthening the judicial system, and rule of law.

I thank you.