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**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AT THE 19TH SESSION OF
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(29 April 2014, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to their second UPR, and thank them for the informative national report.
2. We commend the DRC for having taken a number of legislative and institutional reforms in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights since their last review.
3. Notable is the DRC's implementation of the laws enacted pertaining to sexual violence and the provision of holistic care to victims.
4. We note with satisfaction progress made in the DRC, despite political and economic challenges, in addressing human rights in education, health, administration of justice, and civil liberties. The adoption of a National Strategy to Combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in November 2009 is commendable.
5. Despite these efforts, we regret that the re-occurrence of armed conflict in the DRC hampers progress made thus far. Restoration of peace and security in the DRC will boost national efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. Botswana makes the following two recommendations to the Government of the DRC:

- (i) take necessary measures to ensure that individuals suspected of committing crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations are thoroughly investigated and brought to justice,
- (ii) implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in national law.

I thank you!