

21

Ms. Colleen Diane

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA AT THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

*(5 May 2014, Geneva)*

**Mr. President,**

1. Botswana welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to their second UPR. We thank them for the informative national report.
2. We commend Equatorial Guinea for progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights, rule of law, and good governance.
3. We are encouraged by their efforts in the implementation of recommendations made in 2009. We commend them particularly on constitutional reforms of 2012, which not only strengthened institutional mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, but also committed the country to comply with international instruments.
4. We however encourage Equatorial Guinea to finalise the many pending bills intended to effectively address human rights violations.
5. We note reports of women inmates being subjected to sexual harassment and sexual violence in prisons. We urge the

Government of Equatorial Guinea to address the situation and protect them from all forms of violence.

6. We also note reports about the lack of freedom of expression in Equatorial Guinea. This relates to media, and harassment and attacks on journalists.

7. Botswana recommends that:

(i) Equatorial Guinea take measures to protect freedom of expression,

(ii) Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ensure its implementation.

I thank you!