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**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF GAMBIA
AT THE 20TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(28 October 2014, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of the Gambia to their second UPR, and thanks them for the comprehensive national report.
2. Botswana commends the Gambia for implementing many recommendations from the first cycle. Also commendable is the Gambia's attainment of the Millennium Development Goal with respect to primary school enrolment, as well as gender parity.
3. We applaud the Gambia for legislative and policy measures undertaken since their last review in the area of human rights. The adoption of the Domestic Violence Act 2013; the National Health Policy 2012-2020; and the National Gender Policy and Women Empowerment 2010-2020, among others, are a demonstration of the Gambia's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular, rights of women, access to education and health services.
4. Despite these achievements, we are concerned about the continued traditional harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), and under-age/child marriages in the country.
5. Botswana makes the following two recommendations to the Gambia:

(i) ensure effective implementation of the recently adopted law on sexual and gender-based offences against women and pursue efforts aimed at eradicating these vices., and

(ii) ratify the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and ensure its full implementation in law and practice.

6. In conclusion, we wish the Gambia success in their review and adoption of their UPR report.

I thank you!