

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

(3 November 2014, Geneva)

Mr. President

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Iraq to their second UPR. We thank them for the presentation of their national report.
2. We commend Iraq for efforts made in the implementation of recommendations accepted from the previous UPR cycle. We note progress made in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Notable is progress made in the areas of poverty eradication, primary school enrolment; and reduction of infant and Under 5 mortality.
3. Botswana is pleased to learn that Iraq adopted a rights-based approach in developing its programmes and policies with a view to eventually guarantee the enjoyment of human rights to Iraqi people.
4. We are aware that Iraq is still faced with challenges of political instability, sectarian and ethnic divisions and the rise in religious extremism. These have contributed to an increase in violence and violation of international human rights law in the country.

5. We are concerned about reports of restrictions on freedoms of expression and of assembly; summary executions/extrajudicial killings of prisoners and detainees; sexual violence; and forced recruitment of children, among others.

6. Botswana recommends that Iraq:

a) reform and strengthen the judiciary to effectively address issues of impunity and victim redress, and

b) take measures to adopt a human rights action plan and ensure its full implementation.

7. We wish Iraq a successful review and adoption of their UPR report.

I thank you!