

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

(27 October 2014, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Italy to their second UPR.
2. The fact that Italy was able to implement almost all recommendations made to her at the first cycle is evident of their commitment to the UPR mechanism. We encourage them to implement the few remaining ones.
3. We note with appreciation that Italy has found it necessary to allocate considerable financial and human resources, amounting to over 17 billion Euros, towards the protection and promotion of human rights. What is even more encouraging is the decision to use most of these resources in the fight against discrimination in all its forms, particularly in the context of migrants and asylum seekers.
4. We note with satisfaction legislative and policy measures undertaken since the first cycle, particularly in areas of freedoms of expression and religion; education; fight against trafficking in persons; and protection of women and children.
5. Botswana wishes to make the following two recommendations:

(i) address the legal gaps in the area of child custody and include relevant provisions relating to protection of women who are the victims of domestic violence as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women; and

(ii) take legal measures to protect journalists and investigate all acts of intimidation and violence against journalists.

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

I thank you!