

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF
BELARUS AT THE 22ND SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(4 May 2015, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Belarus to their second UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.
2. Since their last review, Belarus has undertaken legislative and policy measures to protect and promote human rights. These include the enactment of the code of civil procedure; the Trafficking in Persons Act; laws on the development of a juvenile justice system, as well as on addressing drug trafficking and drug abuse problems amongst children and young people.
3. We commend Belarus for measures taken to achieve the MDGs 1, 2, 3 and 4 within the appointed time frame.
4. Despite this notable progress, there are still a number of areas with some serious concerns. These include reports of mass arrests of protestors during demonstrations following the Presidential elections in December 2010; torture or ill-treatment of individuals during detention, and other violations of civil and political rights, including sexual violence against women detainees by inmates and officials in places of detention; and restrictions on freedoms of expression and association.

5. Botswana recommends the following:

- (a) ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities;
- (b) investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, and take appropriate measures to bring perpetrators to justice.

6. We wish Belarus a successful review and adoption of their UPR report.