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

(4 May 2015, Geneva)

Mr. President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Liberia to their second UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.
2. We note with appreciation efforts made by Liberia in implementing many recommendations accepted at their last review.
3. Liberia has undertaken a number of policy and legislative measures to promote and protect human rights since 2010. Among them is the children's Law, which protects children from armed conflicts and violence, child prostitution and pornography, as well as sexual abuse and exploitation.
4. We note that Liberia is currently in the process of harmonizing its domestic legislation with its international obligations. In this regard, we encourage that the Constitution, which is currently being reviewed should be fully aligned to Liberia's international obligations.

5. While there is still high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence, we are encouraged by Liberia's commitment to address this problem, as well as harmful traditional practices, including Female Genital Mutilation.

6. We, however, remain concerned by reports of high rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, particularly in rural areas.

7. Botswana recommends the following:

- (a) intensify efforts to ensure gender equality and eliminate gender based violence;
- (b) put in place an accessible health care system and consider applying the Technical Guidance on preventable mortality and morbidity of children under the age of 5 years, developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

8. We wish Liberia a successful review and adoption of their UPR report.