

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

(6 May 2015, Geneva)

Madam Vice-President,

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the Delegation of Maldives to their second UPR and thanks them for the informative national report.

2. We commend the Maldives for the implementation of many recommendations in relation to the protection of women's rights. The enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act; the Sexual Offences Act; and the Sexual Harassment and Abuse Prevention Act, demonstrates the country's commitment to the promotion and protection of women's rights.

3. We note challenges faced by the Maldives in addressing effects of climate change. We welcome the country's Climate Change Policy Framework which aims to properly manage the human dimensions of climate change. This is fundamental to the socio-economic development and enjoyment of human rights of Maldivians.

4. We note with concern reports of trafficking of migrants from neighbouring countries for labour and sexual exploitation purposes; and of the inadequacy, judicial interference and politicisation of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) .

5. Botswana recommends that the Maldives:

- (a) implement the anti-trafficking law by investigating all cases of human trafficking and punish perpetrators;
- (b) strengthen the impartiality of the JSC and ensure independence of the Judiciary.

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