

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF
AUSTRALIA AT THE 23RD SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(9 November 2015, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana welcomes the delegation of Australia to their second UPR, and thank them for the presentation of their national report.

2. We commend Australia for the implementation of many recommendations accepted at their last review. In particular, legislative and policy measures taken in addressing trafficking of persons, slavery, and family violence, are commendable.

3. While we note progress made in many human rights areas, with Australia's good credentials and governance, much more could be done, particularly in addressing issues concerning migrants, and vulnerable groups. We note reports by treaty bodies that racial discrimination remained a serious problem. Moreover reports of mandatory sentencing continued to disproportionately affect indigenous peoples and juvenile offenders often with no legal assistance.

4. It is in this connection that Botswana makes the following two recommendations:

- a) strengthen measures to combat racial discrimination, including against incitement of discrimination or violence on racial, ethnic or religious grounds;

b) Ensure access to justice by all, including by repealing laws on mandatory sentencing.

5. We wish Australia success in their review.