

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF
DENMARK AT THE 24TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(21 January 2016, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana welcomes the delegation of Denmark to their second UPR. We thank them for their comprehensive national report.
2. We commend Denmark for the legislative, policy and administrative measures put in place in the area of human rights since their last review. Notable are the 2012 establishment of the Special Office for Children; 2013 reform of the Disability Pension and Flexi Job scheme entered into force in 2013; the 2013 Disability Policy Action Plan; the 2014 amendment of the Nationality Act; and the 2014 establishment of the Danish National Cyber Crime Centre.
3. We also note with appreciation reforms made to the Criminal Code, especially the amendments preventing and combating trafficking in persons, domestic violence, and violence against women, including on the protection of victims.
4. Despite these notable achievements, there are still reports of racial profiling, and that persons belonging to minority groups and non-citizens, particularly non-nationals of European Union countries, face structural discrimination with regards to access to employment, housing, health services, quality education, as well as access to justice.

5. We also note that the Danish Justice Act permitted children under the age of 17 years to be placed in pre-trial detention for a period up to eight months, and in solitary confinements for up to four weeks.

6. Botswana recommends that Denmark:

a) Reform its criminal justice system and ensure the age of criminal responsibility is in line with international standards;

b) Step up efforts to combat racism and ensure elimination of all acts of racial intolerance.

7. We wish Denmark a successful review outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President!