

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF ESTONIA  
AT THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

*(19 January 2016, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana welcomes the delegation of Estonia to their second UPR. We thank them for their comprehensive national report.
  
2. We note with appreciation Estonia's commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights. Notable areas include on the rights of women and children; combating trafficking of persons; and strengthening of civil society. As Friends of the ICC, we particularly value Estonia's efforts in the fight against impunity.
  
3. We commend Estonia for implementing many of the accepted recommendations made at their last review. We also commend Estonia for the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC; as well as the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
  
4. We acknowledge efforts made to promote tolerance, cultural diversity and integration. These include the National strategy for the Roma integration; as well as the Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion.

5. We however, remain concerned about reports of continued stigmatisation of certain nationalities, ethnicities and groups, including low participation in public and political life attributed to racist acts against some sections of the population.

6. Botswana recommends that Estonia:

- a) take measures to ensure full participation of all groups in the public and political affairs of the country;
- b) develop effective measures to eradicate racism and xenophobia, including hate speech.

7. We wish Estonia a successful review and outcome report.

I thank you, Mr. President!