

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

*(18 January 2016, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana welcomes the delegation of Namibia to their second UPR. We thank them for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.
2. Namibia accepted most of the recommendations made at their first review. We note with appreciation that many of the accepted recommendations have been implemented.
3. We also note with satisfaction a number of legislative and policy measures taken since 2011 in the area of human rights. Notable is the adoption of policies related to education and gender based violence, such as the Sector Policy on Inclusive Education (2013); and the Child Care and Protection Act (2015).
4. Even though progress has been made in relation to women and children's rights, we are concerned about reports of high prevalence of violence against women and girls, including rape and sexual abuse both in schools and at home.
5. We also note concerns by the Committee on the Rights of the Child that the minimum age of criminal responsibility was 7 years of age; and that the lack of special detention facilities for children has led to them being incarcerated with adults.

6. Botswana wishes to make the following two recommendations to Namibia:

a) develop a comprehensive national action plan that addresses traditional harmful practices and gender based violence against women and girls;

b) ensure that Namibia's juvenile justice system is in line with international standards.

7. We wish Namibia a successful review outcome.