

61

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

61

(27 January 2016, Geneva)

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

2. We commend Singapore for efforts made to implement many of the recommendations accepted at their last review, particularly the initiatives to ensure social harmony, improvement in health, education, and the rights of people with disabilities. These include the Healthcare 2020 Masterplan, the 2014 Marriage Support Programme, the 2014 Family Justice Courts, and programmes to combat racial and religious intolerance.

3. We also note with appreciation measures taken to fight trafficking in persons, especially women and girls; as well as the adoption of policies aimed at protecting and promoting women and children's rights.

4. We encourage Singapore to expedite the process towards ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. We note concerns that Muslim women still do not enjoy equal rights with men with regard to family, marriage and divorce.

5. Botswana recommends that Singapore:

- a) continues efforts to harmonise its legislation and ensure equality between men and women, particularly in marriage and family relations;
- b) ratifies the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

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

I thank you, Mr. President!