

93

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

(22 January 2016, Geneva)

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

2. We welcome the 2012 Somalia Provisional Constitution. The constitution guarantees rights and freedoms to the people of Somalia. We encourage Somalia to work steadfastly towards the finalisation of the constitution so as to effectively promote and protect human rights.

3. We note with appreciation many legislative provisions that have been adopted since the formation of the Parliament in 2012. The Sexual Offences Bill, the Public Procurement Bill and the ratification of the CRC are key milestones in the protection of human rights.

4. We understand that following years of conflict, Somalia faces many challenges, including lack of financial resources, which hamper the implementation of many policies and the strengthening some institutions, such as the judiciary, security and law enforcement organs.

5. We also note reports of the volatile security situation, high cases of arbitrary arrests and detention as well as violence against children and women.

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

- a) Strengthen efforts towards the protection of women and children's rights, and ensure thorough investigations of alleged violence against women, including sexual violence;
- b) Continue efforts to strengthen human rights institutions, including the judiciary and the Ministry of Women and Human rights in order to ensure effective protection and promotion of human rights.

7. We wish Somalia a successful review and outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President!