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**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE
THAILAND AT THE 25TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL
PERIODIC REVIEW**

(11 May 2016, Geneva)

1. **Mr. President**, Botswana welcomes the delegation of Thailand to the UPR process, and thanks them for the comprehensive national report.

2. We note the enactment of laws such as the Gender Equality Act of 2015; the Amendment to the 2008 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; and the Amendment to the Criminal Code to criminalise child pornography, among others.

3. We commend Thailand for measures taken to eliminate violence against women and children. We note the country's commitment to undertake reforms aimed at promoting good governance, reduce inequality and increase efficiency of the justice system.

4. We nonetheless take note of reports of harassment and attacks against human rights defenders and journalists. Reports of censorship and undue restrictions on the freedoms of expression; association and peaceful assembly; and mass arrest of protesters are worrisome.

5. Botswana recommends the following;

a) investigate and ensure justice to all reported cases of intimidation, harassment and attacks of human rights defenders and journalists;

b) remove undue restrictions and infringements to the enjoyment of freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

6. We wish Thailand a successful review outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President!