**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE REVIEW OF CAMEROON AT THE 44TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(14 November 2023, Geneva)

**Mr. President,**

1. We welcome the delegation of the Republic of Cameroon to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and thank them for the national report.
2. Botswana welcomes the efforts of the Government of Cameroon to end and prevent grave violations targeted at civilians including children. However we are concerned by reports of continued targeted attacks on schools and hospitals, resulting in the abduction, maiming and killing of children.
3. In that regard, Botswana recommends that Cameroon:

4.1 Ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and,

4.2 Prioritizes access to public education at all levels by ensuring adequate public expenditure, and addressing obstacles to school attendance.

We wish Cameroon a successful review outcome.

**I thank you, Mr. President!**