**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE CHAD AT THE 45TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

(30th January 2024, Geneva)

**Mr. President,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Chad to the 4th cycle of the UPR process. We thank the Delegation for the presentation of their national report.
2. Botswana commends the Government of Chad for its efforts in prioritising education, especially the granting of access having young girls and having them complete primary, middle and secondary school education which should contribute immensely towards eradication of illiteracy, particularly in rural areas.
3. Botswana has however noted that the cost of education remains prohibitive for the majority of the population in Chad and therefore wishes to make the following recommendations for consideration. That Chad;
	1. Legislate a minimum of 12 years of free primary and secondary education and a minimum of 1 year of free compulsory preschool education.
	2. Enhance efforts to guarantee access to education in order to eliminate the possibility of children being exposed and becoming susceptible to recruitment by armed groups.

Botswana wishes Chad a successful outcome of the review.

**I thank you, Mr. President**