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

*(23rd January 2024, Geneva)*

**Mr President,**

1. Botswana welcomes the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and wishes to thank them for their national report.
2. We note with appreciation that Nigeria supported one of our recommendations submitted at their last review which was to, ‘Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women’.
3. We are concerned by reports of gender-based violence against women and girls which include rape and sexual violence, and domestic abuse among others. Botswana is also concerned by the continued practice of female genital mutilation without any effective steps taken to eliminate the custom. In that regard, Botswana recommends that Nigeria:
	1. Takes effective steps to prevent and eradicate female genital mutilation and provide protection measures for girls at risk; and,
	2. Strengthen efforts to curb gender-based violence by taking measures to ensure that reported cases of violence against women and girls are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice.
4. We wish Nigeria a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**