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

*(22nd January 2024, Geneva)*

**Mr President,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Republic of Senegal to the 4th cycle of the UPR process. We thank the Delegation for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.
2. Botswana notes with appreciation that Senegal supported both recommendations submitted by Botswana during their last review, which called for adoption of strategies within the monitoring and review mechanisms to ensure that the newly established gender units in Senegal are effective in addressing gender parity; and to adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents.
3. Taking into account the efforts by the Government of Senegal in preparing for the adoption of a general policy aimed at Improving Quality, Equity and Transparency in the Education and Training Sector, Botswana recommends that Senegal:
	1. Ensure that pregnant girls return to school and continue with their studies after giving birth without placing pre-requisites for readmission such as production of a certificate to prove the birth of a child, and
	2. Adopt a national policy to combat sexual exploitation in schools.
4. We wish Senegal a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**