**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS AT THE 46TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

 *(30th April 2024, Geneva)*

**Mr President,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to the forth cycle of the UPR process and thank the delegation for their comprehensive national report.
2. We note the progress made by Cyprus in the area of inclusivity, as evidenced by the adoption of the revised National Strategy for Disability and the National Disability Action Plan for period 2024-2028. Botswana wishes Cyprus success in the implementation of strategy and action plan. It is our hope that these policies will provide the basis for Cyprus to strengthen the promotion and protection fundamental human rights.
3. We further applaud Cyprus for the consistent reporting on her commitments under various human rights instruments as indicated in her national report. We encourage continued compliance with these obligations.

Botswana, however, notes some gaps in the protection of the rights of women and children, and in that regard recommends that Cyprus:

1. Promotes the mandatory reporting of cases of violence against children; and
2. Steps up efforts to curb gender-based violence, in particular by taking measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy and National Action Plan (2023–2028) on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women.
3. We wish Cyprus a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President.**