**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE REVIEW OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AT THE 46TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

 (07th May 2024, Geneva)

**Mr President,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Dominican Republic to the fourth cycle of the UPR process.
2. We note with appreciation the measures undertaken by the Dominican Republic in pursuit of the promotion and protection of Human Rights, which includes the creation of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose duty is to assist and support the Government in all human rights - related matters.
3. While acknowledging the strides made by the Dominican Republic we note that challenges still remain and in that regard, make the following two recommendations;
4. Enhance the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman, in line with the Paris principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions.
5. Redouble efforts to adopt measures to ensure that all children have access to confidential, child-friendly and independent complaints mechanisms for reporting all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination.
6. We wish the Dominican Republic a successful UPR outcome.

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