**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF ORIENTAL THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY AT THE 46TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

*(1st May 2024, Geneva)*

**Mr President,**

1. We welcome the delegation of Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and thank them for their national report.
2. Botswana welcomes the adoption of Uruguay’s First National Human Rights Plan in 2023, which we trust will greatly assist Uruguay in the fulfilment of her commitments in the promotion and protection of human rights of all persons, as well as ensure accountability. We encourage allocation of sufficient financial and human resources for the effective implementation of the Plan.
3. We note with concern reports of increased incidents of racist hate speech and hate crimes, and the dissemination of negative stereotypes. Furthermore, we are concerned by reports about the persistence of abuse of authority and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, racial profiling, acts of torture and deaths in custody. In that regard, Botswana recommends that Uruguay:
   1. Reviews the existing legislative framework to ensure that all legislation to combat racial discrimination is in conformity with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other international human rights standards; and,
   2. Ensure that all reported complaints of racist hate speech and hate crimes were thoroughly, effectively and impartially investigated and prosecuted, and that victims were provided with effective remedies.

We wish Uruguay a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**