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

*(7th May 2024, Geneva)*

**Mr President,**

1. We welcome the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and thank them for their national report.
2. Botswana welcomes the development of the 2021-2030 Socio-Economic Development Strategy and the 2021-2025 Socio-Economic Development Plan which aim at developing human resources and improving quality of life, particularly of the poor and people living in remote areas. Furthermore, we welcome the new strategies and policies focusing on social security and protection of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities.
3. Cognisant of the above, we note that in the event of natural disasters, poor households struggled to maintain nutritious diets, and that families affected by floods were more likely to experience food insecurity and malnutrition, with the risk of severe long-term adverse health consequences to children. In that regard, Botswana recommends that Viet Nam:
	1. Open more food banks in the areas most often affected by floods to enhance food security; and,
	2. Intensify efforts to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination, and ensure that they have full access to public services, including education.

We wish Viet Nam a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**