**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF ITALY AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

*(20 January 2025, Geneva)*

**Mr. President,**

Botswana warmly welcomes the participation by the delegation of Italy to the Fourth cycle of the UPR process.

We welcome the implementation of Botswana’s previous recommendations concerning the Trafficking in Persons Plan as well as administrative measures against poverty following the Third UPR.

Botswana however, remains concerned about the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls to Italy and the low prosecution and conviction rates in trafficking cases.

The gender wage gap and its negative impact on women’s pension benefits is also concerning.

Given the foregoing, Botswana makes the following two recommendations:

1. Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat trafficking in persons to bolster prosecution and punish traffickers and their accomplices.
2. Enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and enhance measures to close the gender pay gap.
3. We wish Italy a successful review.

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