**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF GHANA AT THE 28TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

*(7th November 2017, Geneva)*

1. **Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Ghana to the third cycle of the UPR process, and thank them for the presentation of a comprehensive national report.
2. We commend Ghana for the legislative and other measures undertaken in the areas of human rights. Of particular mention are projects on ending child marriage and child trafficking; laws protecting victims of gender-based violence and amendments of the Intestate Succession Act aimed at applying a uniform succession law, irrespective of the inheritance systems and the type of marriage contracted. This will go a long way towards ensuring women’s equal rights to property.
3. Botswana had made a recommendation for Ghana to intensify efforts on birth registration. In this regard, we note with appreciation, efforts to increase the registration of births and deaths through among others, electronic registration, an annual Births and Deaths Registration Day, as well as through monthly mobile registration. We urge continuance of such efforts with a view to further increasing the 63% success rate achieved so far.
4. Notwithstanding the progress made, we note with concern the shackling of mentally challenged individuals and the rise of vigilantism in politics.
5. Botswana therefore makes the following two recommendations:
6. Undertake mental health awareness campaigns to educate communities and relevant authorities on the effects of mental ill health, and amend legislation to ensure that the human rights of people with mental health challenges are respected in every area of their daily interactions; and
7. Step up efforts aimed ending and discouraging vigilantism in politics in order to protect participation and freedom of expression in public life.
8. We wish Ghana a successful review outcome.

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