**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE 3RD REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AT THE 37TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

(22nd January 2021, Geneva)

**Your Excellency,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Austria to the third cycle of the UPR process. We thank the delegation for their comprehensive national report.
2. At the onset, let me take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt condolences to the victims of the Vienna terror attacks in which heavily armed men opened fire on innocent people dining outside cafes and restaurants on the 2nd November 2020. We hope that the country is on the road to recovery from the loss of life and injuries suffered.
3. Botswana commends Austria’s continued cooperation with all international and regional human rights protection mechanisms and monitoring bodies, and we take note of the invitation extended to all UN Special Procedure Mandate holders. We encourage continued compliance under these mechanisms.
4. We take note with appreciation that Austria supported the majority of recommendations made during the last review.
5. In order to strengthen the protection and fulfilment of children’s rights, Botswana recommends that Austria:
* Investigates reports and identifies child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
1. We wish Austria a successful review outcome.

**I thank you.**