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

(21st January 2021, Geneva)

**Your Excellency,**

1. Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the third cycle of the UPR process. We thank the delegation for their comprehensive national report.
2. We commend Nepal for accepting most of the recommendations made during their last UPR review. We encourage effective implementation of the accepted recommendations.
3. Furthermore, we take note of Nepal’s continued cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures, and encourage continual cooperation with these mechanisms.
4. We note with concern reports of the amendment bill to revise the existing act of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Act-2012, proposed by Government of Nepal in April 2019. These amendments could potentially undermine the NHRC’s authority, effectiveness and independence and limit the Nepali people’s ability to access justice.
5. In addition, the absence of domestic legislation criminalizing crimes in international law including torture and enforced disappearance may hinder access to justice to victims of such crimes. It is in this regard that Botswana recommends that Nepal:

* Ensure speedy conclusion of investigations into allegations of Gender Based Violence that remain pending since 1996 – 2006.

1. We wish Nepal a successful review outcome.

**I thank you.**