**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE 41ST REVIEW OF REPUBLIC OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AT THE 41ST SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

 (08th November 2022, Geneva)

1. Mr. President, Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the fourth cycle of the UPR process. We thank the delegation for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.
2. We note with appreciation that Morocco supported one of Botswana`s recommendations submitted during their last review, which is to, review and where necessary adopt school and early childhood education curricula, teaching and school practices to foster the elimination of gender-based discrimination and stereotyping, as well as to promote the empowerment of girls from an early age.
3. We however note with concern the lack of adequate protection of children and juveniles rights by the justice system
4. Botswana therefore recommends that Morocco:
	1. Strengthen the Family Code to ensure that children’s rights and interests are fully protected by national legislation by ensuring gender equality and prohibition of early forced marriages; and
	2. Expedite efforts to formulate a plan at national and local government levels to develop support services both in urban and rural areas for peoples living with disabilities including children.

We wish the Morocco a successful review outcome.

**I thank you, Mr. President**