**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP (UPR)**

*(30th January 2023, Geneva)*

1. **Mr President,** we welcome the delegation of the Republic of Zambia to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and we thank them for their national report.
2. Botswana commends Zambia for her commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and note with appreciation the progress which Zambia continues to make with respect to the ratification of Human Rights Instruments, as well as her continual reporting, and cooperation with UN mechanisms and special procedures in this regard.
3. Whilst appreciating the efforts of Government, we note reports of continued high incidents of sexual abuse and violence against children as reflected in the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and call on Government to come up with interventions to mitigate such incidents.
4. Botswana recommends that Zambia:
	1. Strengthens measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children, in particular child sexual abuse, including investigation of all reports so as to bring perpetrators to justice; and,
	2. Prioritises efforts at raising awareness about gender-based violence against women and girls, including violence perpetrated in a domestic setting.

We wish Zambia a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**