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

*(1st February 2023, Geneva)*

1. **Mr President,** we welcome the delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and thank them for their national report.
2. We commend Sri Lanka`s commitment to engage with the United Nations (UN) mechanisms and special procedures as demonstrated by consistent appearance and up-to-date submission of reports to Conventions to which Sri Lanka is a party to. We encourage the continued engagement with all other UN mechanisms.
3. Botswana notes reports of alleged cases of abduction, unlawful detention, death in custody, torture, sexual violence, and impunity documented in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
4. The delegation of Botswana therefore, recommends that Sri Lanka:
   1. Ratifies the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; and
   2. Expedites investigation of cases of abduction, unlawful detention, torture and sexual violence by Sri Lanka security forces to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr President**