**43RD SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**3 May 2023**

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR STUART H. COMBERBACH**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE**

**Thank you Mr. Vice President,**

Zimbabwe warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Botswana to the fourth cycle of the UPR process and thank them for their national report.

We commend Botswana for the commitment to and progress made in addressing recommendations from the 3rd UPR cycle, and in the spirit of constructive engagement we recommend the following for Botswana’s consideration:

1. Accelerate the development of a Strategy to guide the work of the National Gender Commission.
2. Continue to set-up Child Friendly Centres at police stations as part of efforts to address gender-based violence and consider establishing victim-friendly units to cater for adult victims.
3. Develop and promote community-owned awareness programmes to eradicate gender stereotypes, harmful myths and traditional practices around sexual violence.
4. Accelerate efforts towards the adoption and implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan.

We wish Botswana a successful UPR outcome.

**I thank you, Mr. Vice President**