**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 43rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Botswana**

**3 May 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Botswana for its commitment to human rights, and we welcome the Government’s commitment to decriminalise same-sex relations.

We acknowledge Botswana’s proud history of free and fair elections and note the importance of freedom of expression in maintaining a robust constitutional democracy, particularly in the lead up to Botswana’s next general election.

Australia recommends Botswana**:**

1. **Abolish the death penalty.**
2. **Continue work to eliminate gender-based violence, including through education programs aimed at preventing violence.**
3. **Encourage efforts to promote and protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

[93 words]