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**Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UPR WORKING GROUP-**

**43rd Session**

Review of **Botswana**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Israel welcomes the delegation from Botswana and thanks it for its National Report.

Israel welcomes Botswana’s accession to the CRPD in July 2021 and other advances in the human rights of Persons with Disabilities since its last review. Israel also welcomes the Count of Appeals decision regarding Section 164 of the Penal Code, which found that prohibiting consensual same sex relations is unconstitutional. However, Israel remains concerned over the persistence of customary laws and practices that are discriminatory against women in Botswana and that domestic violence remains prevalent.

In this regard, Israel would like to recommend Botswana to:

1. Explicitly criminalize marital rape and sexual violence and ensure the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.
2. Intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including through the enforcement and full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act.
3. Allow independent and transparent investigations of cases of extrajudicial arrests, unlawful detentions, and arbitrary executions.

I thank you.