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Mr President,

New Zealand warmly welcomes the delegation from Botswana and commends Botswana’s committed participation to the UPR process. We **commend** Botswana on its recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

New Zealand **recommends** that Botswana:

1. Continues efforts to abolish the death penalty.
2. Eliminates from legislation all provisions that undermine freedom of the press and the independence of the media.
3. Creates enabling legislation and support systems for women candidates to run for office, as individuals, groups and party members, to encourage greater female political participation.

We wish Botswana all the best for its review.

Thank you, Mr President.