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

**REVIEW OF BOTSWANA**

**3 May 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Croatia**

Mister President,

Croatia welcomes the delegation of Botswana and thanks them for their report.

We welcome Botswana's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the approval of the Parliament of the Revised Disability Policy and the ongoing drafting of the Disability Bill.

We also commend the results of the measures taken to reduce the spread of HIV.

However, the high incidence of violence against women and children, including sexual exploitation and abuse of children by teachers is concerning.

We regret that death penalty continues to be legal and that people on death row are allegedly exposed to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment prior to their executions.

We have four recommendations:

1. Strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to protect women and children against violence.
2. Ratify Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.
3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
4. Abolish death penalty in law and in practice.

We wish Botswana a successful review session.

Thank you.