**UPR 29, January 17, 2018**

**Recommendations by Canada for Botswana’s UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada commends Botswana’s commitment to promoting the rule of law, and human rights and fundamental freedoms nationally, regionally and internationally. We also note Botswana’s ongoing membership and commitment to the International Criminal Court.

Canada recommends that Botswana:

1. Take measures to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including through criminalizing marital rape, investigating and prosecuting all acts of sexual violence and providing training to law enforcement officials on SGBV.
2. Repeal laws which criminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults and ensure that all legislation, policies and programs do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Ensure the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman as a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles.
4. Ensure indigenous peoples receive proper access to public services and water, and repeal the hunting ban as recommended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur.
5. Repeal the death penalty and consider a moratorium pending its complete abolition.

Canada also welcomes the recent court judgements in Botswana enabling transgender persons to change their gender status on national identity registration documents to reflect their gender identity.