

*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

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| **WG UPR – Botswana*****Belgian intervention****17 January 2018* |

Mr. President,

Belgium welcomes the delegation of Botswana and wishes it every success in the exercise of its third Universal Periodic Review.

We acknowledge Botswana’s continued efforts to counter the spread of HIV/AIDS, inter alia through the development of the National Strategic Framework. However, Belgium is convinced that further progress can be made in a number of areas, including the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. Furthermore, my delegation is particularly concerned about the continued application of the death penalty.

In this context, Belgium would like to formulate the following recommendations:

**R1.** To establish and implement a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.

**R2.** To train police officers and other stakeholders on the handling of reported cases of gender-based violence.

**R3.** To amend the Citizenship Act and the Citizenship regulations in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, so as to ensure every child’s right to a nationality.

Thank you, Mr. President.