

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS & PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

**ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**Universal Periodic Review of Botswana**

**17 January 2018**

**Statement by Mauritius**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes and thanks the delegation of Botswana, and in particular   
Hon. Minister Edwin Batshu, Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, for the comprehensive presentation of its national UPR report.

We commend Botswana for its strong commitment to human rights and the progress made in implementing the recommendations from its last review cycle.

My delegation welcomes the legislative and institutional measures taken by the Government of Botswana to empower the poor and to address the concerns of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups and the people with disabilities. We also note its positive actions towards promoting gender equality, addressing gender based violence, combatting HIV/AIDS, and increasing access to education.

We also applaud Botswana`s decisions to transform the Office of the Ombudsman into a hybrid National Human Rights Institution and to establish a Human Rights Unit to oversee the promotion of human rights and coordinate the National Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan.

We encourage Botswana to continue with its efforts to improve the living conditions of its people, including the persons with disabilities and as a recommendation, Mauritius urges Botswana to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. President.