**Universal Periodic Review of BOTSWANA**

**17 January 2018
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Botswana to its 3rd UPR, and thanks for the presentation of the report that was compiled in wide consultation with civil society and includes a straightforward account of persisting challenges in the country.

Estonia commends Botswana’s efforts to enhance the protection of human rights on the ground since the previous UPR, such as initiatives to eradicate poverty, including the Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme.

We further welcome the establishment of the National Gender Commission (2016) to oversee the implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development (2015). We encourage Botswana to continue to take steps to increase the representation of women in political leadership level.

Estonia positively notes the current internal consultations in Botswana for acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the elaboration of the Revised National Policy on Disabilities (2016), based on the provisions of the CRPD.

We commend Botswana for its strong support to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for the 2017 Act to transfer the Rome Statute into domestic law.

Regarding cooperation with the UN, we encourage Botswana to gradually lessen the backlog of submitting periodic reports to the UN human rights treaty bodies. We further invite Botswana to consider issuing a standing invitation to all UN special procedures mandate holders.

In line with the previous cycle, we **recommend** the Government of Botswana to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty.

We also **recommend** to the Government of Botswana to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home, school and in penal institutions.

We would like to wish to the delegation of Botswana a successful review meeting.

Thank you.