**29th SESSION of the UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**STATE UNDER REVIEW: BOTSWANA**

**17 January 2018**

**(Statement by Turkey)**

Mr. President,

Turkey warmly welcomes the delegation of Botswana and thanks for the comprehensive presentation.

We take note of the country’s progress in human rights since the last periodic review. Turkey welcomes Botswana’s commitments and efforts to raise the standards of democracy, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights in the country. All efforts to that end helped Botswana to become a model country in its continent.

It is a fact that economic and social inequality is a main reason of instability and insecurity. In that regard, Turkey highly appraises poverty eradication programs carried out by the Government of Botswana and **recommends** to widen the scope of those programs and increase the budget assigned for them.

In a way forward, we also **recommend** to finalize the work on a Comprehensive Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan (CHRSNAP).

To further strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights Turkey also **recommends** Botswana to finalize domestic implementation of ICERD, ICCPR, CEDAW and CAT.

We do believe that ensuring gender equality and protection of children’s rights remain two areas with certain shortcomings and Botswana should increase its efforts to reach further improvement. In this vein, Turkey **recommends** Botswana to raise the minimum age of criminality.

Finally, we wish Botswana a successful review and adoption of its UPR report.

I thank you, Mr. President.