**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF MALI AT THE 29TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**(16th January 2018, Geneva)**

1**. Mr. President,** Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of Mali to the third cycle of the UPR process. We thank the Delegation for the presentation of a comprehensive national report.

2. Botswana makes the following two recommendations:

i) Adopt legislation outlawing all forms of the traditional practice of female genital mutilation and finalise the review of the Criminal Code in order to include provisions punishing violence against women.

ii) End the forced recruitment of children into active roles of armed conflict

3. Botswana commends the continued efforts of Mali to strengthen democratic institutions and restore the constitutional order. We have noted in particular the establishment of National Human Rights Commission through the adoption of Act No. 2016-036 of 7 July 2016, which is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in Mali.

4. We also recognise Mali’s efforts to review legislation and ensure protection of human rights, as well as the adoption of national policy documents aimed at protecting children from violence and exploitation.

5. We wish Mali a successful review outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President!