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**UPR29 – Botswana**

**Statement by Slovakia**

17 January 2018

Mr. President,

Slovakia praises Botswana for taking a number of positive steps to address human rights related issues in its country.

We commend Botswana for its efforts and achievements in the areas of development and poverty reduction.

We welcome the adoption of the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan in 2015 aimed at, inter alia, increasing access, equity and quality in early childhood care and education.

Slovakia recognizes commitment of Botswana to address an issue of the right to a nationality, including its commitment to facilitate the acquisition of a nationality by children born on its territory who would otherwise be stateless. In this regard, we recommend that Botswana accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Moreover, in order to strengthen and promote further enjoyment of human rights, Slovakia recommends that Botswana ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the CED.

At the same time, we recommend taking necessary steps to incorporate into domestic law those international human rights conventions that Botswana has ratified.

We invite Botswana to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and encourage it to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures.

We wish Botswana a successful review.

I thank you.