**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AT THE 33rd SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW.**

(7 May 2019, Geneva)

1. Mr. President, Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the third cycle of the UPR process. We thank the delegation for a comprehensive national report.
2. Botswana wishes to commend the Democratic Republic of Congo for holding democratic elections in 2018 and for operationalisation of their National Human Rights Institution. The enactment and amendments of various laws in the DRC endeavouring to promote and protect human rights are most welcome.
3. The issuance of the Presidential order naming the Personal Representative of the Head of State on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment shows a serious intent of fighting grave human rights violations against women and children.
4. We note the request by the Democratic Republic of Congo to be assisted through international cooperation on peace, security, institutional and human capacity-building in the field of human rights.
5. To continue to improve on the commendable efforts by the Democratic Republic of Congo in promoting human rights, we make the following two recommendations:
* Strengthen the protection of human rights of people with disabilities.
* Pursue a human rights-based approach to peaceful resolution of internal political differences and conflict.
1. We wish the Democratic Republic of Congo a successful review outcome**.**

**I thank you**, **Mr. President**.