**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF EQUATORIAL-GUINEA AT THE 33rd SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

 ***(13 May 2019, Geneva)***

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

2. Botswana commends Equatorial Guinea for the incorporation of persons with disabilities into the social security mechanism and the creation of the special service for persons with disabilities in the National Social Security Institute. It is also important to note that the Government has designed strategies to ensure the eradication of gender-based disparities, as well as the prevention of violence against women.

3. The intentions by Equatorial Guinea to fight poverty being undertaken within the framework of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 and the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS are most welcome.

4. Botswana notes the appeal by Equatorial Guinea for support from the international community and all development partners to enable the country to achieve the objectives set in the National Economic and Social Development Plan.

5. In that regard we make wish to make the following two recommendations to Equatorial Guinea

* **Ensure implementation of strategies to fight and prevent violence against women and that equal opportunities were given to women and girls to address gender disparities.**
* **Endeavour to fight stunted growth of children under 5 years of age.**

5. We wish Equatorial Guinea a successful review outcome.

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