**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF IRAQ AT THE 34TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

(11 November 2019, Geneva)

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

2.Botswana notes Iraq’s National Development Plan (2018-2022) and other policy developments meant to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in the country such the Poverty Reduction Strategy(2018-2022), Humanitarian Response Plan, Strategy of violence Against Women, especially the National Strategy for reproductive health and health of mothers, newborns, children and adolescents(2018-2020).

3. We commend Iraq for setting up institutions that promote human Rights such as the Human Right Office and setting up human rights and gender units within government institutions. Also commendable is Iraq’s cooperation with Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

4. While noting the progress made by Iraq in promoting and protection human rights, we make the following two recommendations:

1. Effectively implement the National Development Plan (2018-2022) in particular the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018-2022).
2. Increase education and awareness of the Strategy on Violence against women to ensure its effective implementation.

4. We wish Iraq a successful review outcome.

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