**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF LIBERIA AT THE 36TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

1. November 2020*, Geneva)*
2. **Madam President,** We warmly welcome the delegation of Liberia to their 3rd Universal Periodic Review. We thank them for a comprehensive national report.
3. We note the progress report on the implementation of accepted recommendations from the second cycle. Specific to our own recommendations, we note efforts undertaken to address gender equality and gender based violence. We welcome the establishment of legal aid clinics to facilitate cases for women who have experienced gender based violence as well as deployment of public defenders to provide legal services to indigents facing misdemeanour charges throughout the country.
4. We also commend Liberia for its education reforms which has ensured free education for all up to tertiary level and note in particular, policies on National Technical Vocational Education and Training Girls Education which places emphasis on educating girls in low endowed communities.

Notwithstanding the extensive measures taken, we make the following two recommendations to address the remaining challenges:

1. Consider amending the national law to ensure both men and women can confer their nationality to their children
2. Enact, strengthen and implement laws on violence against women to ensure prosecution against female genital mutilation, rape and other such offences.
3. We wish Liberia a successful review outcome.

**I thank you Madam President.**