**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE 3RD REVIEW OF REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES AT THE 36TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)**

(2nd – 13th November 2020, Geneva)

1. Mr. President, Botswana warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Maldives to the third cycle of the UPR process. We thank the delegation for the presentation of their comprehensive national report.
2. The Maldives accepted both our recommendations during the last UPR cycle, and we encourage the continued implementation of these recommendations to enhance the effective delivery of services in the justice sector.
3. We commend the Maldives for their recommitment to cooperate with the United Nations special procedures mandate holders to visit Maldives. We encourage the Maldives to continue cooperating with and utilising technical assistance extended by the UN through its specialised agencies.
4. Botswana recommends that the Maldives:
   1. Safeguards the safety of children by prioritising resource allocation to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to combat violence against children including sexual abuse of children; and,
   2. Undertakes investigations on all reports and allegations of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

We wish the Maldives a successful review outcome.

I thank you, Mr. President