



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor,**  
**during the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR Review of Botswana**  
**(43<sup>rd</sup> Session of UPR)**  
**03 May 2023**

Mr. President,

We welcome and thank the delegation of Botswana for presentation of its 4<sup>th</sup> UPR report.

Recognizing the challenges posed by the multifaceted crises resulting from Covid-19 pandemic, we appreciate Botswana's cooperation with the UN human rights and UPR mechanisms. We appreciate the measures taken for furthering the human rights agenda, including the accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), finalization of Human Rights Strategy and National Action Plan and the enactment of Economic Inclusion Act 2022.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, we recommend the following:

- Strengthen the Youth Development Fund to economically empower the youth in the mainstream economy;
- Continue to allocate greater resources for the Poverty Eradication Programme; and
- Continued efforts for improvement in the healthcare infrastructure, especially for combatting HIV&AIDS.

We wish Botswana a successful UPR.

I thank you!