

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**43rd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Botswana**

*Geneva, 3 May 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia commends the delegation of Botswana for the national report, its presentation and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

- to abolish the death penalty for all crimes and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

- to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings;

- to recognize marital rape as a criminal offence in domestic legislation.

Slovenia commends Botswana for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also welcome positive steps to incorporate the human rights education in school curricula at the primary and secondary level, awareness raising campaigns on human rights education as well as human rights training for prison service officers and law enforcement officers.

While welcoming numerus measures in their national report to fight gender-based violence, we remain concerned by the reports on high level of gender-based violence cases, including murders. We encourage Botswana to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes and to step up its efforts to support and protect the victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

Thank you.