

UNICEF statement  
Adoption of UPR report Botswana  
28 June 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

UNICEF congratulates Botswana for accepting many recommendations that will further the realization of child rights, and in particular the recommendation to establish a monitoring mechanism regarding child abuse and to take steps to end child sexual abuse (128.67, 128.68).

UNICEF however regrets that Botswana is not ready to accede to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, or to provide nationality if a child would otherwise remain stateless, as this contravenes the right of a child to a nationality as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child (128.2 et al).

We also regret that Botswana is not ready to ratify the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education (128.25).

UNICEF notes the reluctance to approve the recommendation to amend the Children's Act to include a definition of child trafficking and criminalize the worst forms of child labor. UNICEF stands ready to provide technical support to the Government of Botswana on this issue. (128.57).

We also note the reluctance to agree to take all appropriate measures to provide quality education, including mother tongue instruction, where possible. UNICEF appreciates the logistical and social cohesion challenges regarding mother tongue instruction and stands ready to support the Government of Botswana to ensure that all children receive quality education (128.64).

Mr President,

UNICEF enjoys close collaboration with the Government of Botswana and remains fully committed to supporting the Government to address these challenges.

Thank you.