



28 JUNE 2018

UNDP STATEMENT ON ADOPTION OF UPR OUTCOME – BOTSWANA

Mr President

UNDP welcomes steps taken by the Government of Botswana towards integrating the implementation of UPR recommendations as a target in the monitoring and performance framework for its Eleventh National Development Plan (NDP11).

UNDP welcomes the commitment by Botswana to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNDP looks forward to the adoption by Parliament of the (already tabled) National Disability Policy.

UNDP is pleased that Botswana has accepted the recommendation to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders. Botswana can now be added to the growing list of 118 Member States, and one non-member Observer State, to have already extended standing invitations.

However, UNDP notes the absence of legal aid for indigent and vulnerable people on most criminal matters and therefore highly welcomes the Government's commitment in NDP 11 to the 'controlled extension of legal aid to more serious criminal cases in the Magistrates' Court.'

UNDP is concerned by the limited progress Botswana has made regarding its commitments to establishing a Paris Principle compliant national human rights institution (by conferring a human rights mandate on the Ombudsman's office), and developing a National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan.

Mr President,

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

Thank you.