

38th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

ITEM 6 UPR Outcomes Botswana

28 June 2018

Speaker: Júnia Lazarini Videira

Mr. President,

RADDHO welcomes the delegation of Botswana and congratulates its positive progress and commitment to the improvement of their human rights situation. We also appreciate the efforts made by the State, in collaboration with civil society, to implement a national action plan.

We acknowledge the continued work that Botswana has been carrying out in the areas of development as economic empowerment to achieve socioeconomic progress. Such efforts highlight access to quality education, especially for women and girls, as the key to poverty eradication.

Although we commend the commitment and relative progress of Botswana in introducing a women's empowerment programme, we note the importance of intensifying efforts to prevent gender-based discrimination and to address, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.

In this regard, we encourage Botswana to strengthen the rights of women and girls, and ensure legal protections for victims of gender-based violence. We also urge the Government of Botswana to reinforce measures to prevent and investigate women and girls trafficking in compliance with standards for the elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

In conclusion, RADDHO calls upon the Government to increase efforts in the implementation of policies on the eradication of poverty and ensure gender equality through wide participation of women and girls in decision-making, including in schools.

Thank you.