

## **ANNEX B: UPR AND CEDAW RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOTSWANA ON LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

### **International instruments and legal framework**

CEDAW concluding observations and recommendations to Botswana

The CEDAW committee signalled several areas of concern, for which recommendations were made (some of them reiterated from the previous cycle) to ensure improved implementation of CEDAW. Specifically, that Botswana:

- Disseminate concluding observations to all State institutions - Government, Parliament, the judiciary, and implement recommendations before the next reporting period (2023)
- Enhance the crucial role of Parliament, in line with its mandate, for the implementation of the CEDAW Convention and the Committee's recommendations
- Link CEDAW implementation to development efforts and avails itself of regional or international technical assistance in this respect
- Disseminate complete information on the Convention to all relevant stakeholders and enhance women's and girls' awareness and understanding of their rights under CEDAW, with a focus on rural women and remote areas, through cooperation with the media and CSO

### **Women's rights**

- Domesticate the CEDAW
- Remove loopholes in national legislation on gender equality
- Review laws to stop violations of women's rights in the areas of adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, and devolution of property on death and other personal law matters
- Enact specific legislation on marital rape and ensure that all violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offense, as previously recommended
- Implement international human rights instruments to reduce gender-based violence (GBV)
- Strengthen legal protection for victims of GBV
- Investigate and prosecute all acts of sexual violence and punish the authors responsible
- Punish any discriminatory or harmful practice against women
- Continue to implement public policies and urgent steps to prevent, address, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women, including help centres for victims
- Train law enforcement officials on sexual and gender-based violence and case handling
- Raise awareness among the population about sexual and GBV
- Strengthen targeted interventions on vulnerability to HIV and GBV
- Awareness-raising programmes among women and adolescent girls in rural areas on HIV/AIDS
- Influence traditional practices that undermine gender equality
- Adopt a national action plan on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325
- Adequately resource the National Gender Commission to effectively perform its functions and monitor implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development
- Implement gender equality policies that foster girls' access to health and education
- Promote greater participation of women in all sectors of society, including the economy and politics
- Establish measures and mechanisms to improve women's representation in decision making in politics and other fields (including decision making on water and services)
- Strengthen programmes and budgets for Women's Economic Empowerment