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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-eighth session**  
Geneva, 6-17 November 2017

### **Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

#### **Benin**

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\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 November to 17th November 2017. The review of Benin was held at the ninth meeting on 10 November 2017. The delegation of Benin was headed by H.E, Joseph Fifamin DJOGBENOU, Keeper of the Seals and Minister of Justice and Legislation. At its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Benin.
2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Benin: Ethiopia, Panama and United States of America.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Benin:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Lichtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay was transmitted to Benin through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### Presentation by the State under review

5. La délégation a réaffirmé l'attachement du Bénin aux droits de l'homme comme fondation sur laquelle l'Etat se construit, soulignant que la préparation de son rapport a fait l'objet d'une consultation nationale impliquant les structures étatiques et les acteurs de la société civile, appuyés par les agences spécialisées du système des Nations Unies et l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.
6. Depuis 2012, le Gouvernement a œuvré en vue de donner suite aux préoccupations exprimées, aux recommandations faites et aux engagements pris lors du second cycle de l'Examen Périodique Universel, à travers notamment un renforcement des cadres juridique, programmatique et institutionnel en matière des droits humains, tout en reconnaissant que des efforts doivent encore être fournis.
7. Le Bénin a, en particulier, ratifié plusieurs traités internationaux et régionaux dans le domaine des droits humains, tels que: le Protocole à la Charte africaine des droits de l'Homme et des Peuples portant création d'une Cour africaine des droits de l'Homme et des Peuples; et la Convention de la Haye sur la coopération en matière d'adoption internationale.
8. En parallèle, le processus de ratification d'autres instruments relatifs aux droits humains est en cours, tels que:
  - a) les amendements au Statut de Rome de la Cour Pénale Internationale relatifs au crime d'agression adoptés à Kampala;
  - b) le troisième Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'Enfant établissant une procédure de présentation de communications; et

c) le Protocole facultatif au Pacte sur les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels établissant une procédure de présentation de communications.

9. La délégation a souligné qu'une part importante du travail entrepris par le Bénin depuis 2012 s'est faite au niveau de l'intégration des normes internationales dans le droit national. Plusieurs textes de loi ont été adoptés à cet effet, dont:

a) la Loi du 25 novembre 2015 sur le Code de l'enfant;

b) la Loi du 13 avril 2017 sur la protection et promotion des droits des personnes handicapées;

c) la Loi du 16 juin 2016 sur le travail d'intérêt général, qui promeut des peines alternatives à la privation de liberté pour certaines infractions ; et

d) la Loi du 18 mars 2013 sur le Code de Procédure Pénale, qui fait évoluer la procédure pénale béninoise dans le sens d'une meilleure protection des droits humains, en permettant par exemple aux personnes menacées de mesures privatives de liberté de contester leur détention devant un juge.

10. En réponse à des questions qui lui ont été posées, la délégation a clarifié le statut de la peine de mort au Bénin. Suite à la ratification et l'entrée en vigueur du deuxième Protocole facultatif au Pacte International sur les droits civils et politiques visant à abolir la peine de mort, la peine de mort a été abolie en pratique. La Cour Constitutionnelle a décidé que toute condamnation à la peine capitale sera inopérante, et la commutation de la peine des 14 personnes actuellement condamnées à mort est en cours. Le nouveau Code Pénal, qui sera adopté au cours du premier trimestre de 2018 par le Parlement, confirmera formellement l'abolition de la peine de mort au Bénin.

11. Passant à la question de la protection des droits de l'enfant, la délégation a souligné que le Bénin s'est doté en 2015 d'un Code de l'enfant, qui érige un statut pour l'enfant et sa protection dans tous les domaines. En 2014, le Bénin a approuvé un document de Politique nationale de protection de l'enfant, qui précise notamment les moyens mis à disposition afin d'atteindre les objectifs fixés par l'Etat. Avec une majeure partie de la population du pays qui a moins de 25 ans, il est primordial de protéger cette catégorie de la population sur les plans juridique et économique.

12. À cet égard, la délégation a abordé la question du travail des enfants. De nombreux enfants au Bénin travaillent, souvent sous la contrainte. Le Gouvernement a mis en place des instruments de répression des acteurs principaux et des complices du travail des enfants, en particulier lorsqu'il est organisé par des groupes en marge de la société. Cette répression est notamment prévue par des dispositions spécifiques introduites dans le projet de Code Pénal actuellement en discussion devant l'Assemblée Nationale.

13. Au-delà de la répression, la délégation a soulevé la question de l'accompagnement économique et social de la population pour combattre le travail des enfants. Il y a des facteurs économiques et sociaux de fond dans les domaines de l'accès à l'éducation, de l'emploi des parents et de la sécurité sociale qui favorisent le travail des enfants, et auxquels le Gouvernement tente de répondre par les mesures suivantes:

a) promouvoir l'école obligatoire, et s'assurer que les enfants y restent, par l'allocation de subventions et la mise en place d'un vaste programme de cantines scolaires dans toutes les écoles primaires;

b) mise en place d'un système d'assurances, comme la sécurité sociale et l'assurance maladie universelles, et de soutien aux familles les plus pauvres.

14. En concluant ses remarques introductives, la délégation a réitéré l'attachement du Bénin aux droits humains, soulignant que c'est la revendication des droits humains lors de la Conférence des forces vives de la Nation de 1990 qui a permis le passage à un régime démocratique au Bénin. La délégation se tenait à la disposition du Groupe de travail sur l'Examen périodique universel pour répondre aux questions de ses membres.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

15. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Bangladesh welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the National Anti-Corruption Authority. It noted that the Children's Code incorporated the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Bangladesh congratulated Benin for making education accessible for all children and introducing the National Fund for youth employment.

17. Belgium welcomed the adoption of the Children's Code in 2015. It commended the comprehensive legal framework to combat impunity as well as measures to respect the rights of women. However it noted the lack of significant impact with regard to women's situation.

18. Botswana commended Benin for the adoption of Act on the Children's Code, the Act on the Electoral Code and the Decree on the Establishment of Powers and Functions of the National Institute for Women. It commended Benin's cooperation with treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms.

19. China welcomed the adoption of laws to promote and protect the rights of children and people with disabilities. It praised the national plans formulated to combat racial discrimination and improve healthcare. China noted Benin's efforts to eliminate poverty, reduce hunger, provide access to drinking water and promote youth employment.

20. Bulgaria commended the enactment of the Children's Code and the free-education policy. It welcomed Benin's efforts to fulfil its obligations following the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the enactment of the new Criminal Code providing the abolition of death penalty.

21. Burkina Faso congratulated Benin for the regulatory legislative measures taken since its second UPR. It regretted, however, the high rate of maternal mortality, harmful practices, in particular FGM, and child and forced marriages. It urged Benin to adopt the law recognizing the same rights to all children. It invited the international community to support Benin in its efforts.

22. Burundi congratulated Benin for the adoption of its Government Action Programme 2016-2021. It welcomed the adoption of a law to promote and protect persons with disabilities, the drafting of a National Action Plan to combat racial discrimination and the adoption of the National Policy in the Justice Sector. Burundi acknowledged Benin's efforts in the area of justice and the incorporation of international treaties in domestic law.

23. Cabo Verde welcomed Benin's ratification of The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect to Intercountry Adoption and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. It encouraged Benin to share the results of the implementation of National Action Plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

24. Canada commended the adoption of the 2015 Children's Code establishing a legal framework to protect children against sexual exploitation and encouraged its effective implementation. However Canada remained concerned that violations of these rights particularly regarding freedom of expression and assembly persisted.

25. Central African Republic congratulated Benin for its broad consultations with the civil society while drafting its UPR National Report and welcomed the adoption of several legal instruments strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.

26. Chad praised Benin's 2014 National Plan of Action against racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. It noted with satisfaction the Government Action Plan 2016-2021, the adoption of the Children's Code and the law to prevent and prohibit domestic violence.

27. Brazil commended the development of National Action Plans to combat racial discrimination and the worst forms of child labour. It welcomed the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. It encouraged Benin to expedite the ratification of other relevant human rights instruments.

28. Congo commended Benin's adoption of the Children's Code. It encouraged the effective implementation of its provisions to eliminate any risk of death or abandonment of children with disabilities at birth, or those so-called "child witches" and to protect children from sale, trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation. Congo welcomed Benin's cooperation with Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

29. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Benin for the regulatory and legislative measures taken to follow up on the recommendations from its second UPR, particularly the Government Action Plan 2016-2021 and the laws on the Benin Human Rights Commission, the Electoral Code and the Criminal Procedural Code.

30. Croatia welcomed the adoption of the Children's Code and the ratification of the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. It supported Benin's efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on a Communication Procedure. Croatia expressed concern at socioeconomic and regional disparities in access to education for children. It encouraged Benin to address impunity regarding child rights.

31. Guatemala regretted reports according to which the Benin Human Rights Commission is still not operational, as well as reports on harmful practices against women and girls, in particular FGM.

32. Djibouti congratulated Benin for the measures taken since its last UPR notably the creation of the National Authority to combat corruption, the adoption in 2015 of the Children's Code and the establishment of a National Policy on Children's Protection.

33. Egypt commended Benin for its progress in human rights through enhancing the legislative structure to ensure the harmonisation of national legislation with international standards. It praised Benin's submission of the periodic reports to treaties bodies.

34. Ethiopia commended Benin for the protection and promotion of human rights. It praised its commitment to make education accessible to all, which in its opinion has been fulfilled gradually over the last ten years.

35. France praised the adoption of the Children's Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the text on the creation of the Benin Human Rights Commission. It commended the policies for the protection of children, development of the justice sector and combating violence against women. It was, however, concerned at the situation of persons in situation of vulnerability.

36. Georgia praised Benin's ratification of several international agreements and conventions including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the adoption of the Children's Code. While welcoming the establishment in 2013 of the Benin Commission of Human Rights, it regretted that it was still not operational.

37. Germany expressed appreciation for Benin's efforts undertaken to implement the recommendations received in the second cycle of the UPR and the constructive way in which it was dealing with them. However, Germany remained concerned at remaining human rights violations.

38. Ghana welcomed Benin's ratification of international treaties, and the national plan to combat racial discrimination, the National Health Development Plan (2009-2018), the National Child Protection Policy and the National Justice Sector Development Policy. Ghana urged Benin to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

39. Cuba noted that Benin has taken measures to harmonize its domestic legislation and adopt human rights policies. Cuba praised Benin's commitment to apply a new social policy of social security to improve access to social services for all citizens especially for the poorest.

40. Haiti commended Benin's recognition of the competency of the African Court of Human and People's Rights to receive NGOs and individual complaints. It welcomed

Benin's decision to exempt girls from paying school fees for the second cycle of education and the adoption of the Children's Code.

41. The Holy See noted legislative progress in Benin and the initiatives to foster protection, education and healthcare services to children, and the birth registration programme to help to combat children trafficking and other forms of slavery. It mentioned the efforts to eradicate the killing of so called witch children.

42. Honduras commended the adoption of the National Action Plan against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It also noted Benin's decision to exempt girls from paying school fees for the second cycle of education.

43. Iceland welcomed the progress made by Benin since its second UPR including the adoption of the Children's Code. However it noted that there was room for improvement.

44. India welcomed the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Authority. It noted Benin's measures to combat poverty, to strengthen the justice system, to generate employment, to combat violence against women and children, and to implement the right to health. India encouraged Benin to complete the process of setting up their Human rights Commission and ensuring its independence.

45. Indonesia commended Benin's commitment to make education accessible to all and the adoption of the Children's Code. It welcomed the establishment of a national framework through a national charter for social dialogue in 2016, to prevent and manage social conflicts, strengthen the democratic process and promote good governance.

46. Iraq welcomed the strengthening of the legal framework for the protection of children, the adoption of the Information and Communication Code and the adoption of the action plan against racial discrimination.

47. Ireland commended Benin for the abolition of the death penalty in practice. However, it noted that sentences of death row inmates have not yet been commuted. It welcomed the adoption of the Information and Communication Code, although it noted reports of restrictions and suspension of independent media outlets, and that some media offences are still punishable by prison sentences or heavy fines.

48. Italy commended Benin for the adoption of the Information and Communication Code, the Children's Code, and the new Code of Criminal Procedure, and for the ratification of the Hague Convention on protection of children and cooperation in respect of intercountry adoption.

49. Kenya commended Benin for efforts made in the implementation of previous UPRs' recommendations and for their engagement with human rights mechanisms and encouraged Benin to maintain its efforts in implementing the outcome of the present review.

50. Libya welcomed the progress achieved in strengthening the judiciary and harmonising national legislation with international standards, as well as for the ratification of a number of international and regional instruments.

51. Madagascar welcomed measures adopted to combat poverty, strengthen the judiciary, reduce prison overcrowding and combat violence against women and children. It commended the ratification of several international and regional instruments.

52. Malaysia welcomed efforts made to harmonize the national legislation with international standards, and advancements made in the field of health, education, women's rights, children, housing and land management. It commended the new policy on social protection and access to basic social services, but it noted that infant, neonatal and maternal mortality rates remain high.

53. The Maldives welcomed the Government's Programme of Action 2016-2021, the extension of the free education policy to higher education, steps towards universal access to drinking water, and the adoption of the Children's Code, the National Child Protection Policy and the National Action Plan incorporating the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

54. Mali congratulated Benin for the adoption of the Children's Code and the Information and Communication Code, the creation of the Human Rights Commission, the programmes of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment, the facilitation of access to credit and the microcredit programmes for the poorest people, the National Fund to Promote Youth Employment and the establishment of a national corps of young volunteers to boost development. It encouraged the international community to support Benin's efforts.

55. Mauritania commended Benin for the strengthening of its legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, and for progress made towards employment of young people, better access to basic social services and health care and improving the quality of health-care services.

56. Mauritius congratulated Benin for the adoption of its Programme of Action 2016-2021, the Children's Code and the child protection policy and related action plan. It welcomed measures to improve access to drinking water, health and housing, provide free higher education, and support the economic empowerment of women and the nationwide birth registration campaign.

57. Mexico acknowledged Benin's progress in the area of freedoms of expression and opinion, and measures to improve access to justice and the prison system. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the approval of the Code of the Person and Family, and the national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

58. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the action plan against racial discrimination and the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, but noted the concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child over exclusion of children with disabilities. It regretted that a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty had not yet been adopted.

59. Morocco commended the adoption of the Children's Code and the child protection policy, the establishment of standards applicable to children's shelters and protection centres and the development of a plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. It welcomed the creation of the Human Rights Commission, and provisions in the Criminal Code and criminal procedures to criminalise torture.

60. La Délégation du Benin a remercié les pays membres pour les recommandations formulées, et a assuré qu'elles seront prises en compte.

61. Sur la question de suspension qualifiée d'arbitraire de certains médias, la délégation s'est référée à l'adoption récente d'un Code de l'Information et la nécessité d'observer la règle de droit invoquant aussi la Haute Autorité de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication (HAAC), un organe indépendant mise en place par la Constitution.

62. La délégation a souligné par ailleurs que les forces de sécurité n'avaient pas fait un usage excessif de leur pouvoir pendant l'encadrement de manifestations récentes. Elle a fait savoir que des sanctions auraient été appliquées par le gouvernement, en cas de dérives policières.

63. Quant à la recommandation faite pour l'enregistrement de naissances de tous les citoyens, un mécanisme d'enregistrement de la population béninoise a été mis en place pour que chaque citoyen bénéficie d'un état civil biométrique et numérique dans le but de faire valoir les droits civils, économiques, sociaux et politiques de chaque citoyen.

64. Quant au renforcement du système judiciaire, la mise à disposition de moyens et le recrutement de 118 jeunes magistrats à former, en plus des 150 membres de la magistrature qui était déjà en place était un processus qui continue.

65. S'agissant de la population carcérale, la délégation a indiqué que la population de détenus, sur une population nationale de plus de 10 millions, a diminué, de 7.247 en 2012 à 6.297 en 2017. Les Centres Pénitentiaires du Bénin accueillent 119 mineurs dont 7 jeunes filles et 243 femmes dont 26 mères de jeunes enfants. La séparation de quartiers hommes/femmes et adultes/mineurs a été respectée grâce aux organisations et partenaires stratégiques qui ont accompagné le Bénin dans cet acte de séparation.



66. Parmi cette population de détenus, 60 à 70% des personnes incarcérées le sont à titre provisoire et peu feront l'objet de peines pénales. Le Bénin venait de prendre un décret pour séparer les maisons d'arrêt des maisons de correction. Une agence pénitentiaire venait d'être créée pour s'occuper exclusivement des maisons carcérales.
67. La Délégation a ajouté que la Commission des Droits de l'Homme Béninoise était aussi dans le processus de sa mise en place.
68. En outre, le Code Pénal Béninois, en discussion à l'Assemblée Nationale, intégrera des éléments relatifs aux crimes contre l'humanité, la torture et la criminalité actualisée.
69. La délégation a ensuite rappelé que le second Protocole Facultatif au Pacte International relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques avait été ratifié. Le Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature allait adopter le décret commuant la peine de mort en peines appropriées.
70. Toujours concernant la ratification des traités, la délégation a rappelé que la Convention des Nations Unies sur l'Élimination de Toutes Formes de Discrimination à l'Encontre des Femmes avait été ratifiée.
71. La délégation a affirmé que les actes inadmissibles perpétrés à l'encontre des enfants «vidomegons» ont aussi fait l'objet de poursuites judiciaires et de condamnations.
72. En ce qui concerne les mutilations et infanticides à caractère culturel ou rituel, il n'y avait pas de cas connu du gouvernement qui n'ait fait l'objet de poursuites judiciaires. De surcroît, une campagne de sensibilisation avait été lancée dans les lieux de cultes traditionnels où les moyens éducatifs et la santé sont dispensés aux enfants, et les dérives constatées sont sanctionnées.
73. Namibia commended Benin for progress made in implementing the recommendations of its second UPR despite various capacity challenges faced by the country, and encouraged it to continue implementing the Government Programme of Action 2016-2021 with emphasis on its third pillar on improving the living conditions of the population.
74. Nepal welcomed the adoption of the law creating the Human Rights Commission, and encouraged Benin to make it operational as early as possible. It commended Benin for the launching of the national child protection policy and related action plan, steps taken towards the abolition of the death penalty and protecting women's rights and economic, social and cultural rights.
75. The Netherlands welcomed efforts to improve prison conditions and abolish the death penalty. It encouraged Benin to develop a concerted strategy to reduce prison overcrowding and remove the death penalty from all national legislation.
76. Nigeria welcomed the creation of the Human Rights Commission, the National Anti-Corruption Authority and the regional offices of the Ombudsman. It also welcomed the improvement in prison conditions and efforts made at bringing national legislation in line with international standards.
77. Pakistan welcomed efforts made towards the eradication of poverty, ensuring women's rights and combating violence against women. It appreciated the adoption of the Children's Code and the national child protection policy and its action plan.
78. Portugal thanked Benin for its report and welcomed the establishment of a programme of «child-friendly» courts.
79. Qatar welcomed the ratification by Benin of a range of international instruments and the setting up of human rights bodies. It commended initiatives undertaken to facilitate the population's access to health services.
80. The Republic of Korea commended Benin for its 14-point national implementation plan following the second cycle of the UPR, and for the adoption of the Children's Code and of the new Code of Criminal Procedure guaranteeing the right to a fair trial.
81. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the strengthening of the legal protection of children, the justice sector development policy, the action plan against racial discrimination, the adoption of a document on the standard operating procedures to be followed in combatting violence against women, the recognition of the competence of the African Court

on Human and Peoples' Rights to receive cases from NGOs and individuals. It asked whether the rights of children to be heard and participate in public life are ensured in the legislation.

82. Rwanda commended efforts towards improving the social and economic status of the population and for its accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It encouraged Benin to remove provisions pertaining to the death penalty from its criminal code.

83. Saudi Arabia praised measures taken by Benin to encourage the employment of young people, especially through programmes carried out by the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and the facilitation of credits and micro-credits.

84. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the national action plan against racial discrimination, the signing of a national charter on social dialogue by the Government, the National Employers Council and trade unions, and the adoption of the Programme of Action 2016-2021.

85. Sierra Leone commended the adoption of the national action plan against racial discrimination, the Children's Code and the Programme of Action 2016-2021. It also commended Benin for hosting the African symposium for human rights defenders in 2017.

86. Slovenia noted with appreciation the adoption of the Children's Code and the national child protection policy, and Benin's accession to the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It expressed concerns at the prevalence of, and impunity for female genital mutilations and early and forced marriage, especially in rural areas, and at prison overcrowding and conditions of detainees. It encouraged Benin to bring the pending Criminal Code in line with its international commitments.

87. South Africa welcomed the Constitutional Court's ruling on the illegality of death penalty, and commended Benin for the children's code and the promotion of youth employment. South Africa also welcomed the improvement of screening and care of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the setting-up of integrated support centres for victims of gender-based violence.

88. South Sudan commended South Africa for ratifying several regional and international legal instruments. South Sudan noted with satisfaction that Benin adopted several laws during the second UPR cycle, and the incorporation of the Convention on the rights of the child into the Children's code.

89. Spain welcomed the creation of a National Commission for Human Rights and the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with disabilities and its optional protocol.

90. The State of Palestine commended Benin for the adoption of the Children's Code and echoed the recommendation to adopt a comprehensive strategy with local protection mechanisms accessible to children. It welcomed Benin acceptance of the recommendation made during the second cycle of the UPR, to provide free education.

91. Sudan commended the ratification/adoption of several regional and international conventions and strategic plans. Sudan encouraged Benin to improve women and children's rights and the situation in prisons. Sudan encouraged Benin to take the necessary measures to fight poverty and to support social and economic rights.

92. Switzerland welcomed the adoption of the 2015 Children's Code. However, it noted that numerous challenges persist in this area. It also noted that the health system was still fragile in Benin and that emergency care was not accessible to all.

93. Timor-Leste commended the adoption of the Plan of Action against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance as well as the 2015 government's decision to exempt girls from fees for higher schools.

94. Togo commended Benin for its improvements in the field of human rights and the different positive legislative changes, the creation of the National institution to promote women rights and of the National authority to combat corruption. Togo called on the international community to continue supporting Benin in its efforts to improve the situation of vulnerable people.

95. Tunisia welcomed the steps taken by Benin to implement recommendations from previous UPR. It commended Benin's cooperation with UNHCR and the establishment of a Commission for human rights.
96. Turkey welcomed the adoption of the Children's code in 2015, and the decision to exempt girls from fees in secondary schools. Turkey appreciated legislative progress in Benin and the national action plans in the area of human rights.
97. Ukraine welcomed the adoption of Children's Code, the Information and Communication Code and the law on the establishment of the Human Rights Commission. Ukraine recognized Benin's commitments to eliminate torture and steps taken in this regard, including the adoption of new laws and the organisation of related training programmes.
98. The United Kingdom welcomed the decision of Benin's Constitutional Court to abolish the death penalty. It urged Benin to implement recommendations regarding prison conditions. It remained concerned at the continued practice of ritual infanticide and urged Benin to work closely with experts and NGOs to eradicate it. It support recommendations from the Special Rapporteur in the sale of children. While welcoming measures taken in the security sector, it remained concerned at the lack of independence of the judiciary.
99. The United States of America recognized Benin's efforts to protect children from human trafficking. However, it remained concerned at the lack of sufficient measures, and that the penalties for trafficking crimes were weak. It applauded the launch of Benin's National Anti-Corruption Forum and the collaboration between government and civil society actors on good governance and transparency initiatives. It noted that early and forced marriage continued to be a major problem in Benin.
100. Uruguay, while welcoming measures taken by Benin to eliminate gender balance, it shared OHCHR's concern at the absence of a national mechanism for monitoring the rights of women and the lack of related data. Uruguay welcomed the advances regarding birth registration further to the creation of the General Direction of the Civil Registry. It was concerned at the observations made by UNESCO regarding the accessibility and quality of education.
101. Venezuela welcomed legislative progress in Benin, including the adoption of the Law on Community Work of 2016, and the Law on the rights of the child of 2015. Venezuela highlighted the implementation of the Government Action Program 2016-2021, aimed at strengthening democracy.
102. Vietnam welcomed the results of Benin in the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the UPR, and the public policies to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, in particular adoption of laws on promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and the Children's Code. It noted Benin's challenges regarding food security, access to drinking water and housing.
103. Zambia noted with satisfaction measures undertaken to combat poverty, strengthen the justice system, reduce prison overcrowding, combat violence against women and children and promote economic, social and cultural rights, including to improve prison conditions.
104. Zimbabwe welcomed the creation of the Human Rights Commission and the Children's Code and the development of the national action plans to combat and eliminate the worst forms of child labour and racial discrimination. It also noted measures taken by Benin to promote youth employment, and the rights to water, food, housing, health and education.
105. Algeria noted that the legislative frame was reinforced regarding the rights of children, communication and information, elections and justice. Algeria welcomed the ratification of the Protocol on the creation of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, the creation of the National Institute to promote the rights of women, the National Authority to combat corruption and shelters for children.
106. Angola welcomed the ratification of the chart implementing the creation of the African Court on Human and People's Rights as well as the adoption of the Human Rights Commission and the National Action Plan on the elimination of worst forms of child labour.

107. Argentina thanked Benin for the introduction of its national report and made recommendations.

108. Armenia, while welcoming progress made at legislative level, it remained concerned at the persistence of discrimination against women. It welcomed the Decennial Plan on Education and encouraged Benin to ensure free education for all and increase school enrolment for girls. It also encourage Benin to improve access to birth registration.

109. Australia commended Benin on the removal of death penalty provisions from its Criminal Procedure Code and on Benin's contribution to the launch of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and its related national campaign. Australia was concerned at the reportedly poor conditions in Benin's prisons.

110. Azerbaijan welcomed the establishment of the National Anti-corruption Authority and the fact that Benin started to organize competitive recruitment of civil servants. It also commended Benin's efforts to implement the right to education, in particular its free-education policy.

111. La délégation a remercié tous les intervenants et elle a confirmé que les encouragements seront pris en considération.

112. Sur les questions relatives au travail forcé, au mariage forcé, la délégation a promis que la poursuite de ces actes sera entreprise et des réponses aux recommandations seraient apportées.

113. Sur l'indépendance de la justice, le Bénin a assuré qu'il s'efforçait par tous les moyens de renforcer son système judiciaire par l'extension de la carte judiciaire et en recrutant des greffiers et davantage de magistrats.

114. La délégation a ajouté que dans un contexte national et mondial difficile, la satisfaction des droits économiques sociaux et culturels de citoyens s'avère difficile à réaliser. Cependant, le gouvernement Béninois restait mobilisé autour de la situation des Droits de l'homme.

115. Par ailleurs, le Bénin a pris l'engagement de mettre en œuvre toutes les observations qu'elle a acceptées, y compris celle relative à la mise en place et au fonctionnement de la Commission Béninoise des Droits de l'Homme.

116. La délégation a lancé un appel aux partenaires techniques et financiers, afin qu'ils poursuivent leur soutien au Bénin, pour la mise en œuvre des programmes de développement, y compris pour la promotion et la protection des Droits de l'Homme.

117. En conclusion, la délégation a réitéré sa reconnaissance à la Troïka, aux membres du Conseil, aux pays membres, et au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme pour leur soutien.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\*

**118. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Benin and enjoy the support of Benin:**

**118.1. Speed-up the ratification process of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burundi)/ Step up efforts in ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia)/ Promptly ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW (Guatemala));**

**118.2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure (Montenegro)/ Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which establishes a communications procedure (Portugal);**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 118.3. **Speed-up the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which establishes a communication procedure (Burundi);**
- 118.4. **Promptly ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW) (Guatemala);**
- 118.5. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**
- 118.6. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mexico);**
- 118.7. **Accelerate the process of ratification of the international instruments listed in the national report (see point 13) (Madagascar);**
- 118.8. **Ratify the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labor Organization (ILO) (Guatemala);**
- 118.9. **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) (Guatemala);**
- 118.10. **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**
- 118.11. **Intensify efforts to submit national reports to the various treaty bodies (Iraq);**
- 118.12. **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.13. **Take specific and effective measures to make the Human Rights Commission fully operational, and also to guarantee the Commission's independence by ensuring adequate resources and financial autonomy as recommended by the Human Rights Committee (Bangladesh);**
- 118.14. **Speed-up the process of selecting the members of the Benin Human Rights Commission to make it operational (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 118.15. **Appoint the members of the Benin Human Rights Commission and provide the necessary means for its functioning and independence (France);**
- 118.16. **Appoint the members of the Human Rights Commission and ensure their independence by providing them with financial autonomy and sufficient human and material resources to carry out their mandate, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) (Guatemala);**
- 118.17. **Continue efforts to make sure that the Benin Human Rights Commission functions in an effective and independent manner (Georgia);**
- 118.18. **Make the National Human Rights Commission operational (Germany);**
- 118.19. **Continue the establishment of the Benin Commission for Human Rights (Iraq);**
- 118.20. **Take necessary measures to make the National Human Rights Commission fully functional and equipped with necessary mandate and resources in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
- 118.21. **Undertake the necessary steps to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is operating in line with the Paris Principles, particularly in terms of its financial independence and with sufficient human and material resources to enable it to effectively exercise its mandate (Netherlands);**

- 118.22. **Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is operating in compliance with the Paris Principles, particularly in terms of its financial independence (Republic of Korea);**
- 118.23. **Finalize the setup of the Human Rights Commission and ensure its functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);**
- 118.24. **Enhance its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of Benin's human rights institution to bring it fully in line with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**
- 118.25. **Set up the Benin Human Rights Commission which was created in 2013 (Senegal);**
- 118.26. **Expedite the functionality of its National Human Rights Institution (Sierra Leone);**
- 118.27. **Expedite the setting up of the Benin Human Rights Commission (South Africa);**
- 118.28. **Continue building up the national human rights institutional framework, in particular the Human Rights Commission, and ensure its effective functioning (Ukraine);**
- 118.29. **Fully capacitate and empower the National Institute for Women (South Africa);**
- 118.30. **Continue efforts to harmonize nation legislation with international conventions acceded by Benin (Qatar);**
- 118.31. **Take all measures to ensure that human rights national instruments are rigorously implemented (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.32. **Speed-up the process of adoption of the new Criminal Code (Georgia);**
- 118.33. **Expedite the adoption of the draft law on trafficking in persons, in line with international law (Iceland);**
- 118.34. **Promulgate the adopted texts in order to make them effective and operational (Madagascar);**
- 118.35. **Adopt the various legislative recommendations, including the Act on gender and women's participation in political life as well as adopting a national monitoring mechanism for women's rights (Namibia);**
- 118.36. **Expedite legislation to criminalize torture and bring perpetrators to justice, in accordance with the Convention against Torture (Republic of Korea);**
- 118.37. **Adopt the new Criminal Code so as to finally exclude death penalty from its legislation (Republic of Moldova);**
- 118.38. **Expedite the adoption of the draft law on trafficking in person, in line with international law (Timor-Leste);**
- 118.39. **Speed-up the adoption of the new Criminal Code (Zambia);**
- 118.40. **Parliament to adopt all the pending legislations (Zambia);**
- 118.41. **Brings its national legislation into conformity with the provisions of the international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);**
- 118.42. **Pass legislation as soon as possible to ensure that the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is implemented into domestic law as soon as practicable (Australia);**
- 118.43. **Continue efforts to combat discrimination (Morocco);**
- 118.44. **Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

- 118.45. Continue to establish policy to support the creation of income-generating activities through the provision of on-going training, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the granting of credit to specific projects (Ethiopia);
- 118.46. Implement Pillar 3 of the Government Action Programme (2016-2021) which focused on improving the living conditions of the population (Cuba);
- 118.47. Continue to mobilise resources and necessary technical support to further enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria);
- 118.48. Sustain and scale up ongoing efforts to attain the SDGs, such as access to drinking water, food security, access to health care and education (Nigeria);
- 118.49. Consider adopting development plans to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable populations especially women and children (Pakistan);
- 118.50. Further strengthen its efforts to combat poverty for provision of equitable access and resources to all its people (Pakistan);
- 118.51. Continue and further expand its microcredit programme for the poorest people and ensure loan allocations to women (Pakistan);
- 118.52. Develop infrastructure in rural areas to enable a better access for people to basic social services (Senegal);
- 118.53. Continue strengthening its social programmes to improve the quality of life of its people, in particular the most in need, with the assistance and cooperation that the country requests (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 118.54. Take further proper legislative measures to abolish the death penalty (Ukraine);
- 118.55. Commute the sentence of the last individuals to be sentenced to death and work to improve the detention conditions in the country's prisons (Canada);
- 118.56. Complete the process aimed at the abolition of death penalty (Central African Republic);
- 118.57. Adopt as soon as possible the Penal Code containing the provisions on the abolition of the death penalty and the criminalization of torture, adopt the law criminalizing all forms of trafficking, as well as the decrees of application of the Children's Code (France);
- 118.58. Approve the Criminal Code and, in particular, the abolition of the death penalty (Holy See);
- 118.59. Reflect the abolition of the death penalty in its legislative framework, and commute existing death sentences to prison sentences (Ireland);
- 118.60. Commute the sentences of the inmates currently on death sentences and, having already acceded to the 2nd Optional Protocol on ICCPR, speed-up the adoption of the new Criminal Code to abolish the death penalty (Namibia);
- 118.61. Take appropriate measures to fight against so-called acts of popular justice (Congo);
- 118.62. Undertake investigations on extrajudicial killings in order to bring the perpetrators to justice and to provide reparation to the victims or to their families (Montenegro);
- 118.63. Make torture a criminal offence in accordance with the Convention against Torture (Zambia);
- 118.64. Conduct prompt and impartial investigations into allegations of torture and ensure that anyone committing such a crime receive a punishment commensurate with the gravity of the act (Zambia);

- 118.65. **Launch the human rights educational programmes for law enforcement officers on issues of combating torture, and respect for human rights (Ukraine);**
- 118.66. **Strictly apply the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in particular those relating to the maximum period of detention on remand (France);**
- 118.67. **Take steps to reform the prison system and to ensure the protection of the rights of detainees (Italy);**
- 118.68. **Continue improving the often still precarious conditions in Benin prisons (Germany);<sup>1</sup>**
- 118.69. **Continue its efforts aimed at improving detention conditions (Central African Republic);**
- 118.70. **Take all necessary measures for the strict separation of detainees according to their age, sex and status, with the aim of improving prison conditions, in the follow up of recommendations 108.34, 108.36, 108.37 and 108.38 from the second cycle (Haiti);**
- 118.71. **Redouble efforts to improve the conditions of detention facilities with particular consideration for women and children, and to expedite trials (Holy See);**
- 118.72. **Improve prisons and detention health living conditions and in particular, end overcrowding and the lack of sanitation, enable easy visits by relatives of children, and prohibit and punish prison officers for acts of torture and ill- treatment (Kenya);**
- 118.73. **Take further steps to conclude the ongoing prison modernisation (Nigeria);**
- 118.74. **Continue to improve prison conditions, enhancing measures already adopted to avoid overcrowding, malnutrition poor sanitation, and end the abusive use of pre-trial detention (Spain);**
- 118.75. **Continue efforts to improve prison conditions, prison capacity and find alternative solutions to imprisonment (Angola);**
- 118.76. **Address the overcrowding of prisons, including through actions to minimise long pre-trial detention periods (Australia);**
- 118.77. **Guarantee the poorest people access to legal aid (France);**
- 118.78. **Support the efforts of the judiciary to effectively implement the adopted reforms by ensuring adequate financial support of the justice ministry as foreseen in the National Development Plan in the Area of Justice (Germany);**
- 118.79. **Significantly strengthen the cooperation between the different actors of the judiciary to avoid long pre-trial detention and to ensure every citizen's right to a fair trial in due time (Germany);**
- 118.80. **Finalize the ongoing judicial reforms, in particular the one of the Penal Code (Senegal);**
- 118.81. **Continue to strengthen efforts to provide better legal protection for vulnerable groups, especially women, children and youth by increasing the number of specialized judges and providing free legal services for those who seek it (Netherlands);**
- 118.82. **Sustain and strengthen nascent anti-corruption and transparency initiatives, in consultation with civil society, including through follow-on**

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<sup>1</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue was: "Continue improving the often still miserable conditions in Benin prisons" (Germany).



discussions to the June National Anti-Corruption Forum (United States of America);

118.83. **Revise the Bill on the freedom of association, the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly, submitted in 2012, which is currently pending review by the Supreme Court, with a view to adopting legislation that will protect the rights of civil society (Canada);**

118.84. **Continue its efforts on establishing efficient and transparent public service (Azerbaijan);**

118.85. **Take the necessary measures for the adoption of laws on the new Penal Code, trafficking in persons and the prison system (Côte d'Ivoire);**

118.86. **Continue efforts to put an end to human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children (Iraq);**

118.87. **Legislate to counter human trafficking and protect victims (South Africa);**

118.88. **Take all necessary steps to enforce laws on forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, in particular on child trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

118.89. **Finalize and enact legislation to criminalize all forms of human trafficking, as defined in international law, with sufficiently stringent penalties (United States of America);**

118.90. **Continue strengthening the action plan on trafficking of human beings in the prevention of this crime, providing protection to victims and punishing the perpetrators (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.91. **Seek to legislate minimum standards for the elimination of people trafficking, including the trafficking of women and girls (Australia);**

118.92. **Continue applying effective measures for the promotion of employment amongst the young people that allow fair and satisfactory labour conditions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.93. **Continue its efforts to further promote the integration of young people into the labour market (Viet Nam);**

118.94. **Adopt integrated local development plans to improve living conditions and living standards of vulnerable populations (Congo);**

118.95. **Continue to step-up investment in agriculture and ensure food security (China);**

118.96. **Continue its efforts in the fight against hunger, in order to achieve food security and ensure that all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Brazil);**

118.97. **Take all necessary measures to reduce the proportion of populations suffering from hunger (Saudi Arabia);**

118.98. **Seek technical assistance to address food security challenges in order to mitigate the negative effects of malnutrition and poverty (Sierra Leone);**

118.99. **Set up strategies to support and strengthen the progress recently achieved in the area of food security (Viet Nam);**

118.100. **Take all necessary measures to promote the access for all to clean drinking water (Saudi Arabia);**

118.101. **Continue efforts to ensure better access of the population to drinking water and sanitation (Algeria);**

- 118.102. **Continue to develop its health care undertakings to better guarantee people's right to health (China);**
- 118.103. **Strengthen the public health system for better access to all to primary care, especially through universal health coverage (Djibouti);**
- 118.104. **Further continue the implementation of the health service through policy aimed at strengthening infrastructure in urban and rural areas (Ethiopia);**
- 118.105. **Improve healthcare infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, and healthcare access for women from both rural and urban backgrounds (Holy See);**
- 118.106. **Adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents (Iceland);**
- 118.107. **Improve the health care infrastructure in Benin, particularly by paying special attention to enhancing access to healthcare for women in poor and rural areas (India);**
- 118.108. **Improve health care infrastructure in general to enable access to health care to all and especially access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, and resources devoted to maternal health (Kenya);**
- 118.109. **Increase efforts to reduce infant, neonatal and maternal mortality, through systematic prevention and treatment mechanisms and accessible maternal and infant healthcare services (Malaysia);**
- 118.110. **Extend the access and improve the quality services of prenatal, postnatal and obstetrics health care, in order to reduce the maternal mortality rate (Mexico);**
- 118.111. **Improve access for everyone to quality health services (Qatar);**
- 118.112. **Fully fund implementation of the new national plan to combat HIV-related stigmatisation and discrimination (South Africa);**
- 118.113. **Set up an inclusive health policy to ensure that particularly emergency care is more effective and more accessible to all (Switzerland);**
- 118.114. **Continue efforts in order to provide health and education services to a larger part of the population and continue initiatives related to social housing (Libya);**
- 118.115. **Continue addressing illiteracy, particularly in rural areas (Indonesia);**
- 118.116. **Accelerate the implementation of the policy on free education, in order to ensure that all children, particularly those from disadvantaged households, are not deprived of their right to education (State of Palestine);**
- 118.117. **Continue providing human rights training within the municipalities and in schools providing general education (Cuba);**
- 118.118. **Provide free primary education, create a safe and protective environment for all children to keep them in the education system especially those in the rural and remote areas (Kenya);**
- 118.119. **Continue the measures to reinforce the access to education (Morocco);**
- 118.120. **Strengthen school infrastructures, taking into account concerns of women and girls, particularly in regards to the access of appropriate sanitation facilities (Portugal);**
- 118.121. **Ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is mandatory for all adolescents, irrespectively of their gender (Portugal);**
- 118.122. **Improve hygiene conditions, nutrition and access to drinking water in schools (Portugal);**

- 118.123. **Strengthen literary programmes for women and girls living in rural communities (Sierra Leone);**
- 118.124. **Implement measures to reduce the high rate of drop-out of girls from schools, ensuring free primary education (Uruguay);**
- 118.125. **Continue its efforts to increase the quality and availability of education at all levels and all over the country (Azerbaijan);**
- 118.126. **Continue efforts to stop violence against women (Egypt);**
- 118.127. **Step up efforts to disseminate information on the existence of new legislative provisions related to the prevention and prohibition of violence against women, ensuring women are duly informed of all the legal channels available to them (Belgium);**
- 118.128. **Ensure that cases of violence against women and children are thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and sentenced, and that victims receive reparation (France);**
- 118.129. **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, in particular, practices such as female genital mutilation and child and early forced marriage. Ensure that victims of such violence receive appropriate help and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Italy);**
- 118.130. **Strengthen and implement measures to promote gender equality and equity, address the under-representation of women in decision-making bodies, gender based violence and elimination of harmful traditional practices (Rwanda);**
- 118.131. **Redouble its efforts to significantly reduce the rates of neonatal maternal mortality, harmful practices such as FGM, child marriages and forced marriages (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.132. **Step up efforts to more efficiently implement the prohibition of FGM in all areas of the country and among all groups of citizens (Germany);**
- 118.133. **Ensure that cases of violence against women are investigated, perpetrators prosecuted and victims awarded reparation (Iceland);**
- 118.134. **Continue taking steps to reduce gender based violence and promoting gender equality (Indonesia);**
- 118.135. **Implement a coordination strategy between the health and justice authorities to prevent and punish acts of female genital mutilation (Mexico);**
- 118.136. **Establish mechanism to facilitate victim identification and ensure prosecution and punishment of all acts of female genital mutilation (Slovenia);**
- 118.137. **Continue its efforts to reduce the prevalence of FGM in the country (South Sudan);**
- 118.138. **Make progress in eradicating violence against women, stepping up actions such as awareness raising campaigns, and the creation of shelters, implementing measures to contribute to eradicate female genital mutilation as well as child marriage (Spain);**
- 118.139. **Step up actions in the area of gender equality, including the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda to guarantee the participation of women in all areas of decision-making (Spain);**
- 118.140. **Implement measures and awareness raising campaigns to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful practices against women (Uruguay);**
- 118.141. **Continue undertaken measures to strengthen the fight against harmful practices and violence against women (Armenia);**

- 118.142. Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against them, especially domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 118.143. Take the necessary measures in law and in practice to put an end to discrimination between men and women regarding nationality (Algeria);
- 118.144. Adopt the draft law establishing quotas for women in elections putting them in an advantageous position, in the follow up of recommendations 108.42, 108.50 and 108.87 from the second cycle (Haiti);
- 118.145. Continue its efforts in promoting women's rights by increasing the representation of women in both public service and private sector (Maldives);
- 118.146. Continue the implementation of policies to encourage the sustainable economic empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas (Bulgaria);
- 118.147. Establish a national mechanism for the advancement of women in accordance with the 2030 Agenda (Honduras);
- 118.148. Continue efforts to protect the rights of women and children as well as other vulnerable groups (Nepal);
- 118.149. Strengthen the literacy programmes for women and girls, in particular in rural areas (Turkey);
- 118.150. Take practical measures to ensure the full and proper implementation of the Children's Act, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2016 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 118.151. Ensure the effective implementation of the Children's Code with a view to protect the rights of this vulnerable group (Belgium);
- 118.152. Establish a national institution for the monitoring of children and the collection and analysis of the data concerning children (Cabo Verde);
- 118.153. Fast-track the implementation of the Children's Code in order to curb harmful practices against children, including child early forced marriages, sale of children and the killing of the so-called sorcerer's child (Namibia);
- 118.154. Ensure respect of rights and fundamental freedoms of children through sanctioning the authors of all exploitation and forced labour practices (Argentina);
- 118.155. Carry out investigations into cases of harmful practices against children, ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and remove children from environments where such practices are carried out (Belgium);
- 118.156. Provide legal aid to child victims and their guardians to strengthen their access to courts (Botswana);
- 118.157. Launch awareness-raising campaigns aimed at changing the attitude and practices related to ill-treatment and abuse of children (Bulgaria);
- 118.158. Following the new Children's Code, investigate and prosecute all persons responsible for harmful practices against children (Croatia);
- 118.159. Strengthen awareness and education programmes, prevent harmful traditional practices against women and girls and ensure that victims have access to resources and protection and rehabilitation mechanisms (Guatemala);
- 118.160. Pursue efforts by taking the appropriate measures favourable to the schooling of girls and their retention at school in particular by fighting the practice of vidomègons (Djibouti);
- 118.161. Take further steps to design policies and programmes to address ill-treatment and abuse of children and institute mandatory reporting procedures regarding child abuse (Iceland);

- 118.162. **Strengthen its efforts to combat child ill-treatment and violence, and provide street children with the necessary protection, as well as housing, adequate medical services, education and access to social services they need (Mauritania);**
- 118.163. **Develop a strategic framework for the comprehensive protection of children as regards trafficking and sexual exploitation (Sierra Leone);**
- 118.164. **Make efforts to design and adopt policies and programmes to raise awareness concerning the ill-treatment and abuse of children (State of Palestine);**
- 118.165. **Guarantee the implementation and the effectiveness of the Children's Code, particularly making accessible the relevant public services and proving the necessary human and financial resources (Turkey);**
- 118.166. **Combat exploitation of children and violence against children (Turkey);**
- 118.167. **Continue efforts to strengthen the rights of the child and protect children from sexual exploitation and combat trafficking in children and early marriage (Tunisia);**
- 118.168. **Continue its efforts to combat child, early and forced marriage by addressing its causes through the effective implementation of the action plan for its National Child Protection Policy (Canada);**
- 118.169. **Take appropriate and robust measures for the elimination of practices such as the placement of children, early marriages and child trafficking (Central African Republic);**
- 118.170. **Implement the recently adopted Children's Code and prosecute all crimes and offences against children, including child marriage, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and trafficking in children (Brazil);**
- 118.171. **Adopt measures to put an end to harmful practices such as early and forced marriages and genital mutilation, in line with the 2030 Agenda (Honduras);**
- 118.172. **Establish a national mechanism for the protection of the rights of children, and allocate human and financial resources for its functioning (Honduras);**
- 118.173. **Take necessary measures to protect children from early marriage, trafficking, and infanticide (Republic of Korea);**
- 118.174. **Continue efforts to ensure an effective implementation of the Children's Code to guarantee that those cases of ritual infanticide, sexual child abuse, trafficking in children and early marriage, are prosecuted and sanctioned (Switzerland);**
- 118.175. **Strengthen information campaigns against early and forced marriage and enforce laws already in place (United States of America);**
- 118.176. **Adopt effective measures against child exploitation trafficking including actions of public awareness, combatting impunity and protection of victims (Spain);**
- 118.177. **Raise awareness among the communities on the prohibition of child labour, particularly in relation to the common social practice whereby a child, usually a daughter, is sent to live as a servant with a wealthier family, which lends itself to acts of human trafficking (Botswana);**
- 118.178. **Strengthen control mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children (Chad);**
- 118.179. **Strengthen the efforts to effectively fight child labour and child trafficking by taking more preventive measures and implementing more punitive measures (Germany);**

- 118.180. Take additional measures of social, economic and legal protection to combat child labour (Angola);
- 118.181. Keep improving the system of child registration at birth and avoid any form of violence toward children (Holy See);
- 118.182. Create a system of easy access to the registration of newborns (Honduras);
- 118.183. Intensify efforts to raise awareness among the public on the importance of birth registration and birth registration process (Turkey);
- 118.184. Continue to step-up efforts to guarantee that all birth of children are registered, especially in rural areas (Uruguay);
- 118.185. Continue in its efforts to promote the rights of the child and consider setting up a centralized civil registration system (Mauritius);
- 118.186. Pursuit its awareness raising efforts as to the importance of birth registration and provide birth certificates and protect persons from the consequences of non-registration (Sudan);
- 118.187. Improve the situation of persons with disabilities (Egypt);
- 118.188. Step up efforts to address prejudice against children with disabilities, to ensure that such children have access to health care and inclusive education (Bulgaria);
- 118.189. Adopt the necessary policies to ensure that children with disabilities are given equal opportunities in education, and ensure that they are fully integrated into school systems, free from discrimination of any kind (State of Palestine);
- 118.190. Ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care and combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities (Timor-Leste);
- 118.191. Accelerate the promulgation of the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and human trafficking (Zimbabwe).

**119. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Benin and have been noted by Benin:**

- 119.1. Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force by security forces (Italy);
- 119.2. Set specific, measurable, achievable and relevant goals, in consultation with all stakeholders, in order to reduce bureaucracy (Haiti);
- 119.3. Ensure that all national legislation complies with international standards on freedom of expression and media freedom, and take steps to prevent arbitrary suspension of media outlets (Ireland);
- 119.4. Resist calls to further liberalize abortion, and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn and recognize that life starts at conception (Kenya);
- 119.5. Take urgent measures to investigate and sanction before justice harmful practices such as forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, widowhood practice, levirate and sororate, and purification rites for adulterous women (Argentina);
- 119.6. Adopt measures against child activities in convents dedicated to voodoo, where child abuses take place. Additionally, take measures for the sanction and prevention of the practice of infanticide of the so-called "witch children" (Honduras).

119.7. As almost 90 percent of children in Benin have unfortunately been victims of violence at school, organize a national campaign for raising awareness against these unacceptable offences (Croatia);

120. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

## Annex

*[French Only]*

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Benin was headed by H.E, Joseph Fifamin DJOGBENOU, Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice et de la Législation, and composed of the following members:

- Son Excellence Monsieur Eloi LAOUROU, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent;
  - Son Excellence Monsieur Boniface YEHOUETOME, Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Nationale du Bénin;
  - Madame A. Inès Laurenda HADONOU épouse TOFFOUN, Directrice de l'Administration Pénitentiaire et de la Protection des Droits Humains;
  - Monsieur Maurille BIAOU, Deuxième Conseiller;
  - Monsieur Jimmy AGONGBONON, Premier Secrétaire;
  - Monsieur Pierre FANDY, Premier Secrétaire;
  - Monsieur Boris Pierre TOKPANOU, en service à la Direction de l'Administration Pénitentiaire et de la Protection des Droits Humains; et;
  - Madame Fifamè GOUSSOUEMEDE épouse DOVONOU, Attachée.
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