

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**42nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Benin**

*Geneva, 26 January 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of the Republic of Benin for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia commends Benin for the adoption of a criminal code in 2018 and a new constitution in 2019 that abolished the death penalty. We also commend Benin on the ratification of several international instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

Slovenia remains particularly concerned about persistently high rates of often interlinked issues of child marriages, child labour, school drop-outs and child exploitation.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* to increase efforts in strengthening the rights of the child, including through laws, policies, strategies and plans to protect children from marriages, early pregnancies, genital mutilation and sexual exploitation, to eradicate child labour and combat trafficking in children, and to increase their level of completed education; and
* to ensure the realisation of the pending visits from the UN Special Rapporteurs on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the right to water and sanitation and in the field of cultural rights.

Thank you.