**Intervention of Slovenia**

**Review of Benin**

**28th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 10 November 2017**

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the Delegation of Benin for their national report, its presentation today and expressed commitment to the UPR process.

We note with appreciation the new Children's code and the national child protection policy, covering amongst others a wide range of offences and violence against children. Nonetheless, certain harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child early and forced marriage remain prevalent and unpunished, particularly in the rural areas.

In this regard we would like **to recommend** to Benin to establish mechanisms to facilitate victim identification and ensure prosecution and punishment of all acts of female genital mutilation.

We further welcome Benin's accession to the 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and steps taken aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

We encourage Benin to fully implement and bring the pending Criminal Code in line with its international commitments. We also note with concern the reports on prison overcrowding and the situation of detainees and prisoners, including those still waiting for the death sentence to be commuted to life sentence.

Thank you!