

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA DURING THE REVIEW OF BENIN
AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

(25 OCTOBER 2012, GENEVA)

Madam President,

1. We warmly welcome the Delegation of Benin to the second cycle of the review of their country, and wish to commend them for a comprehensive national report.

2. We commend the Government of Benin for the policy measures undertaken to improve the lives of its people in the area of human rights. The adoption of the Good Governance Charter which deals with a broad range of issues covering economic and social development, including poverty reduction and gender equality, inter alia, is a welcome development.

3. Despite being a small economy and faced with economic challenges, Benin has intensified its efforts to promote access to health care. Noteworthy is emphasis on adequate and improved health services in areas of family and reproductive health. We note that these efforts have significantly reduced cases of wild polio virus, and eliminated maternal tetanus. This is a positive step

toward the realisation of the health related Millennium Development Goal.

4. Madam President, Benin's full cooperation with the human rights mechanisms is noteworthy. We therefore encourage them to continue extending this gesture to all the human rights mandate holders.

5. We note with appreciation, the recent law on corruption or illicit enrichment. This is evidence of Benin's quest to promote and protect human rights in all spheres.

6. It is our hope that the human rights bodies and other international organisations will find it necessary to provide both financial and technical assistance to the Government of Benin. This will assist them in addressing some of the remaining challenges in the areas of health care, and in the implementation of some of the recommendations from the previous review, and indeed those that will come from this review.

7. Finally, we wish Benin a successful review and adoption of their report.

8. I thank you!