

Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fourteenth Session**

Review of Benin

**Statement by
Ambassador Wafaa Bassim
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
and other international organizations in Geneva**

(Geneva, 25th of October 2012)

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Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the delegation of Benin and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today.

Egypt has noted the breadth and thoroughness of the consultations the government of Benin conducted in preparation of its national report, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system and reflects its legacy in democratic practice.

We have examined with interest what was mentioned in the report and welcome the plans by Benin to conduct a review of the constitution and the strengthening of domestic legislations. We believe that Benin has been a responsible member of the Human Rights Council, upholding the fundamental principles of international human rights law and arguing that the fundamental mission of the body is the promotion of peace and multilateralism. In that vein, Egypt presents the following recommendations to Benin, hoping that it will consider adopting them:

- 1- To maintain its positive efforts in the current process of reviewing its national laws with a view to bringing them in line with its international human rights obligations.
- 2- To carry on with ensuring the reduction of poverty and increasing the empowerment of women.
- 3- To keep on efforts, both on legal and procedural grounds, to improve conditions of detention and to speed up the adoption of the draft criminal code.

Finally, we support the request by Benin that the international community through international cooperation, assist in implementing the action plans developed for the promotion and protection of all human rights. We also support its wishes to apply for funding from the universal periodic review Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in order to carry out follow-up to this review.

I thank you.