

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

UPR-BENIN

(25/10/2012)

Thank you, Madame President.

We thank the distinguished delegation of Benin for its participation to the UPR cycle and the national report.

Italy welcomes the ratification by Benin of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), entered into force at the beginning of this month, as well as the long standing de facto moratorium on executions. Therefore, Italy recommends that Benin abolishes entirely the death penalty from its legislation.

Italy is particularly concerned about harmful traditional practices such as the ritual infanticides of so-called "witch children" in the North of the country and the economic exploitation and abuse of minors working as domestic servants or "vidomegons". Italy recommends that Benin adopts all necessary measures against harmful traditional practices violating the rights of the child.

We commend the commitment of Benin in combating female genital mutilation, including by criminalizing this harmful practice that, however, still persists in certain regions. Italy recommends Benin to step up efforts aimed at improving the situation of women, also through education and specific awareness raising campaigns about the perils of FGM.

Finally, Madame President, it is widely reported that detention facilities are significantly below international standards. Italy recommends Benin to improve prison conditions, by considering the implementation of the relevant concluding observations already made by treaty bodies in this respect.

I thank you, Madame President.

*Alen Hrapcovic*