



(Please check against delivery)

RAJA INTAN NOR
ZAREEN

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Benin
14th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
22 October – 5 November 2012

Thank you Madam President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Benin led by H.E. _____ to the 14th Session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for their comprehensive and detailed presentation of its national report.

Madam President,

2. My delegation welcomes the achievements and progress that Benin has made since its first review in 2008 and appreciates the updates on their implementation of the accepted recommendations. We commend the active work being done by the Government in reviewing and strengthening its national normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights of its people, particularly in the area of poverty reduction, the empowering of women and promoting and protecting the rights of the child, among others.

3. My delegation acknowledges the serious attention given by Benin in the area of education. We laud the efforts made by Benin to allocate more funds to this sector and in this regard applaud Benin for providing free education for girls up to their second year of secondary school. We support the commitment expressed by Benin to provide free education for all in the future.

4. My delegation further supports the requests by Benin in paragraph 108 of its national report for international cooperation; and funding from the UPR Voluntary Fund and Technical Assistance in order to implement the action

(Please check against delivery)

plans developed for the promotion and protection of all human rights in the country. We nevertheless acknowledge the various challenges Benin is facing in upholding the fundamental freedoms of its people. We are confident that Benin would do its utmost to address those challenges.

5. My delegation would like to propose the following two recommendations for the consideration of Benin:

- 5.1. to continue its efforts in fighting corruption and to allocate sufficient funding for the implementation of its newly enacted law on combating corruption; and
- 5.2. to intensify its efforts in promoting literacy among the population, especially among rural women.

I thank you, Madam President.

GENEVA

25 October 2012