

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPR  
UPR OF BENIN, 25 OCTOBER 2012

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA DELIVERED BY H.E. DR. UMMUNA H.  
ORJIAKO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO UNOG

Madam President,

Nigeria warmly welcomes the delegation of Benin and thanks the Minister of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights for the presentation of their national UPR report.

We commend Benin for its commitment to combating poverty through a strategy which includes measures to promote the welfare of children; equal access to social services; reduction of maternal mortality and feeding strategies for infants and young children.

We also commend Benin for the numerous programmes and policies it has put in place to promote the wellbeing of its citizens. Notable among these are the micro-credit programme for vulnerable women and the very poor; free education up to the second year of secondary school for girls; free caesarean sections since April 2009 and a policy to protect persons with disabilities.

We note with satisfaction, the creation of human rights institutions that help to promote and protect human rights in Benin. We recommend that ideal conditions be created for the Ombudsman and the High Commissioners for Consultative Governance and National Solidarity to operate.

We congratulate Benin for establishing a National Council for the Promotion of Gender Equality and a National Institute for the Advancement of Women. We urge the government to take all necessary measures to ensure their effectiveness in enhancing the empowerment of women.

These, Madam President, are just a few of the numerous achievements Benin has made in improving the quality of life of its citizens and promoting their rights and fundamental freedoms. Nigeria urges Benin to continue on this path with determination and commitment.

I thank you.

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