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Comments by Pakistan on the National Report of Benin

(14th session of the UPR Working Group)
25th October 2012

Madam President,

Pakistan welcomes the delegation of Benin to their UPR and thanks for presenting a national report that highlights the efforts of the government to promote and protect human rights of its citizens. We have read the national report and two compilations with interest.

We are encouraged to note that since the first review in 2008, Benin has made significant efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights. These efforts have contributed to the empowerment of women, especially in rural areas as well as improved access to healthcare and free education.

The national report explains the efforts being made by the Government to promote good governance with a special focus on the fight against corruption and illicit enrichment. We wish the Government well in its endeavors to raise living standards of its peoples.

The national report also refers to the important role of the Ministry of Family Affairs in promoting the Personal and Family Code and other laws for the promotion of the rights of women and children. We would appreciate if the delegation could explain in detail the functioning of this Ministry.

The national report frankly acknowledges specific challenges in strengthening human rights infrastructure in the country. The report also enlists specific areas where Benin seeks international cooperation with a view to intensify its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens. This merits serious consideration.

In conclusion, Pakistan would like to recommend Benin to;

1. promote and advance policies that focus on the alleviation of poverty, and
2. continue its efforts to raise awareness about human rights among its population.

I thank you Madam President.

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