

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE
DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
WORKING GROUP SESSION ON BENIN ON 25
OCTOBER 2012
(1min56s)**

Madam President,

Singapore expresses appreciation for the national report and presentation by the delegation of Benin which has outlined some of challenges that the country faces in its development. We note the commitment of the Government in overcoming these challenges. This is reflected in its continued efforts to put in place legislations over the last four years to enhance the domestic legal framework, including the Good Governance Charter in 2012 to strengthen governance in Benin.

We also note the efforts by the Government in meeting the Millenium Development Goals, particularly in ensuring universal primary education by 2015. According to the UNDP, Benin is on track to meet this goal due to the increase in the education budget and introduction of free primary school education in 2006. Singapore **recommends** that Benin, with the assistance from UNICEF and other relevant UN agencies, continues to improve access to education, including skill training programmes, for all.

Singapore also notes the efforts by the Government in promoting access to health care such as the launch of the insecticide-treated mosquito nets campaign, the universal health insurance scheme, and free malaria treatment for mothers and children. Better access to health care can in turn reduce mortality and improve the health and well being of the people. We **recommend** that Benin, with support of the WHO and UNDP, continues its effort to introduce programmes and initiative to improve access to health care by its people.

In conclusion, we join many friends of Benin in wishing the country success.

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