



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva  
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

Universal Periodic Review of BENIN

Madam President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Benin and would like to thank the delegation for their report. (We also appreciate the answers provided to our advance questions.)

We welcome a number of positive developments since the first UPR. Notably, Benin's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, as well as the ratification of the CRPD convention and its Optional Protocol.

We are concerned about discrimination and violence against women in the country, and note with appreciation the adoption of the Act on the Prevention and Punishment of Violence Against Women. Slovenia would like to **recommend** to Benin to take all necessary measures to implement this act in order to effectively eliminate all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage. We would also like to learn how gender perspective has been integrated in the follow-up processes to the UPR.

We welcome steps taken with regard to the protection of the rights of the child; however, we remain concerned about reports of violations of the rights of the child, especially relating to the so-called "witch children", child labor, corporal punishment in schools, and discrimination of children born out of wedlock. In this connection, we **recommend** to Benin to implement the relevant treaty body recommendations, in particular CESCR recommendation to step up efforts to prevent and halt killings of so-called "witch children" by including provisions in criminal law to suppress this practice and organizing campaigns to heighten awareness of its criminal nature among local authorities, doctors, midwives and the population at large.

Thank you.

**Questions:**

- What the steps has Benin taken to ensure that the draft Children's Code prohibits all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment, in all settings, including the home?
- According to the CESCR and ILO Committee of Experts the issue of trafficking in human beings persists in the country. Slovenia would like to ask about concrete legislative, policy and other measures, including awareness-raising and training in judiciary and other fields, taken to address this phenomenon.