



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF BENIN

25 OCTOBER 2012

PALAIS DES NATIONS

Madame President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Benin to the 14th session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report. We commend the inclusive consultation process which was undertaken in its preparation and we **recommend that Benin continue this inclusive consultative process when implementing accepted recommendations for the second cycle.**

We applaud the commitment of Benin to combating poverty and welcome initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction. The renewal of these initiatives every three years displays the government's long term commitment to eradicating poverty. **South Africa recommends that Benin continue to prioritise poverty eradication and policies aimed at promoting the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by its citizens.**

We further appreciate that the national report also set out the challenges faced by the government of Benin in the promotion and protection of human rights and the fulfillment of its obligations under international human rights law. South Africa urges the international community to engage in cooperation with Benin as requested to advance the promotion and protection of all human rights in the country.

Finally Madame President, South Africa wishes to acknowledge and commend the leadership role played on the continent by Benin as the Chair of the African Union and to its contribution to strengthening the organization. We wish Benin well in the implementation of all accepted recommendations.

I thank you.