



**Statement by Sri Lanka**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group**  
**Review of Benin**

Madam President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the high-level delegation of Benin led by -----  
----- and commends the comprehensive national report.

My delegation recognizes the important measures undertaken by the Government of Benin as means of promoting poverty reduction, good governance, and the promotion and protection of human rights including the right to development.

Special mention must be made of the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction, which will benefit the lives of many.

My delegation commends the cross-sector efforts undertaken in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, including in the area of health, reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality, feeding strategies for infants and young children within an HIV/AIDS context, and also in the education sector, where free primary and secondary education is provided

for girls. We take special note of the drafting of a national plan of action to combat trafficking in children for labour exploitation.

Sri Lanka also welcomes the increased budget expenditure toward maternal and child health, and combating malaria; and in the education sector as means of guaranteeing education for all by 2015, in accordance with the MDGs.

My delegation acknowledges the continued efforts to protect and promote the rights of women with the national gender promotion policy aimed at achieving equity and equality between men and women by 2025.

In conclusion, Madam President, Sri Lanka recommends to the Government of Benin to further enhance the capacity of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.

Thank You.

Thank you