**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 28th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Benin**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Benin on the removal of death penalty provisions from its Criminal Procedure since its last Universal Periodic Review. **Australia recommends that Benin pass legislation as soon as possible to ensure that the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is implemented into domestic law as soon as practicable.**

Australia further commends Benin on contributing to the launch of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, and the commencement of the next three-year phase of its related national campaign.

Consistent with the Benin Government’s strong advocacy efforts to end child marriage, **Australia recommends that Benin seek to legislate minimum standards for the elimination of people trafficking, including the trafficking of women and girls.**

Australia is concerned by the reportedly poor conditions of Benin’s prisons. **We recommend Benin address the overcrowding of prisons, including through action to minimise long pre-trial detention periods.**