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| **Permanent Mission of India, Geneva** **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group****28th Session (6-17 November 2017)** **3rd  UPR of the Republic of Benin – Interactive Dialogue****Friday, 10th November 2017, 09:00 am - 12:30 pm** **Statement by India****Mr. President,**

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|  India thanks the delegation of the Republic of Benin for the presentation of its National Report.2.          We welcome the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Authority in Benin.3.         We note that Benin has stepped up  efforts to improve its human rights situation in recent years through adoption of measures to combat poverty, strengthen the justice system, generate employment, combat violence against women and children and promote their economic, social and cultural rights.4.       We also note the progress in implementing the right to health, including enhanced coverage of district health facilities and in reducing the infant mortality rate and numbers of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis cases. We, however, **recommend** improving the health care infrastructure in Benin, particularly by paying special attention to enhancing access to healthcare for women in poor and rural areas.5.       We encourage Benin to complete the process of setting up their Human Rights Commission and ensure its independence by providing financial autonomy and adequate resources to enable it to fulfill its mandate.6.         We wish the delegation of the Republic of Benin all success in its future endeavors.  **Thank you Mr. President**.  |

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