Universal Periodic Review

**Benin**

Thank you Mr. Vice President.

The State of Palestine warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Benin and thanks them for their presentation of their national report.

The State of Palestine welcomes Benin’s acceptance of the recommendation at its second UPR, to provide education free of charge. We recommend the government accelerates the implementation of this policy, in order to ensure that all children, particularly those from disadvantaged households, are not deprived of their right to education. Correspondingly, children with disabilities often face various forms of social exclusion, including in education. We recommend that the government of Benin adopts the necessary policies to ensure that children with disabilities are given equal opportunities in education, and to ensure that they are fully integrated into school systems, without any stigmatization and prejudice against them.

Furthermore, we commend Benin for its adoption of the Children’s Code and echo the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur -notably, to adopt a comprehensive strategy with local protection mechanisms that are readily accessible to all children, regarding the illegal practice of the sale of children. We recommend that Benin makes efforts to design and adopt policies and programmes to raise awareness concerning ill-treatment and abuse of children.

We wish Benin a successful review.

I thank you Mr. Vice President.