**UPR 42 – Benim**

***Statement by Portugal***

*Speaking time – 1.10’*

Thank you, Mme. Vice-President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of Benin and wishes it a successful UPR.

Portugal warmly welcomes the incorporation in the Constitution of the abolition of the death penalty in 2019. We further welcome that since the last review several initiatives to strengthen the protection of women's rights have been put in place, including the adoption of the National Policy on Gender Equality and its related action plan.

Portugal **recommends** that Benin:

1. Continues its efforts to advance the right to education by improving school infrastructure and equipment, ensuring that all schools have adequate water and sanitation facilities.
2. conducts nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on children’s rights, criminalization of child labour, infanticide and harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation with a view to eliminate these practices.
3. ratifies the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thank you.

*150 words*