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**Statement on behalf of the State of Israel**

**UPR WORKING GROUP – 42nd SESSION**

**26 January 2023**

Review of Benin

Israel welcomes the delegation of Benin to the UPR and would like to thank it for its National Report.

Israel commends Benin for taking legislative steps to abolish the death penalty. Israel also commends Benin for the adoption of its new abortion law and the law to protect persons against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics.

However, Israel is concerned that LGBTQI+ persons continue to face stigma, discrimination and violence. Israel is also concerned that FGM, despite being prohibited, continues to be carried out in several communities.

In this context, Israel would like to recommend that Benin:

1. Take all necessary steps to ensure that the availability of safe abortion services can be guaranteed, and to sensitize communities to the problems of unsafe abortion.
2. Complete and implement policies, strategies and plans aiming at ending the practice of FGM.
3. Launch awareness campaigns to combat stigma and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons.

I thank you.