

Statement by Jerry Mika, Deputy Permanent Representative UPR of Benin, 26 January 2023

1. Thank you, Mr. President,
2. Namibia warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Benin and thank them for their commitment to the UPR process.
3. We note with appreciation the reforms adopted by Benin to advance respect for human rights during the period under review. We particularly commend Benin for its accession to a number of international treaties, including the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
4. We encourage Benin to further pursue national efforts towards the effective implementation of these international instruments.
5. In the spirit of constructive engagement, we offer the following two recommendations for consideration by Benin:
   1. Guarantee the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and enable it to effectively exercise its mandate through the provision of adequate financial and human resources.
   2. Take effective measures to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons.
6. We wish the delegation of Benin a successful review.