**Human Rights Council**

**42nd session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Benin**

*(26 January 2023)*

**Intervention by Ukraine**

**Thank you, Mme Vice-President,**

Ukraine thanks the delegation of Benin for the presentation of its national report and positively notes its efforts to implement recommendations received during the previous UPR cycle.

We welcome the achievements of the Government of Benin in building up the national human rights’ institutional framework, in particular the steps taken to criminalize torture and abolish the death penalty at the legislative level and the ratification of fundamental international treaties relating to the protection of human rights.

We encourage Benin to continue with further progress and would like to **recommend**:

* to ensure that the national Human Rights Commission operates independently and complies with the Paris Principles;
* to intensify efforts in launching the human rights educational programmes for law enforcement officers on combating torture and respect for human rights;
* to redouble efforts in effective implementation of all Government’s initiatives to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

We wish Benin a successful review.

**I thank you.**