

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 42 - Benin**

**Thursday 26 January 2023, 9:00 - 12:30**

**Delivered by: Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado, Permanent Representative of Italy**

*(Focal point: Angela Zanca, First Secretary)*

Thank you, Mister President.

We thank the distinguished delegation of Benin for the presentation.

Italy praises Benin for its support to the UN Resolution for a moratorium on the use of death penalty and for incorporating the abolition of death penalty into its Constitution in 2019.

We also welcome the progress made by Benin in strengthening women’s rights, to fight against harmful practises such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, as well as to combat violence against women and girls.

Italy seizes this opportunity to offer Benin the following recommendations:

* *Continue efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed in 2013;*
* *Take measures to combat the transnational trafficking of minors;*
* *Ensure the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the protection of journalists and human rights defenders from attacks.*

We wish Benin a successful review.

I thank you.