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

**Review of Benin**

**26 January 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Benin to the UPR Working Group. We thank the Government of Benin for presenting its national report, and welcome the steps taken to strengthen the national human rights framework, in particular by abolishing the death penalty and criminalising torture.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to prioritise the establishment of a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
2. to enhance training on the absolute prohibition of torture and strengthen training programmes for officials likely to be involved in monitoring, questioning or handling persons deprived of their liberty;
3. to respond to all pending visit requests from the UN special procedures mandate holders;
4. to eliminate gender-based discrimination in nationality legislation, in particular for children born to Beninese mothers and foreign fathers, and spouses married to Beninese women;
5. to take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence, child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Benin success in the review.

I thank you.