Benin participated in its second UPR review on 25 October 2012. The delegation was headed by Ms A. Marie-Elise C. Gbedo, Minister of Justice of Benin. Ms Gbedo presented a very comprehensive report that highlighted the significance of the advances made since the country’s first review in June 2008. Among the primary accomplishments were the acceptance of the protocol for the abolition of the death penalty, significant improvements in the provision of health care in rural areas, and the expansion of micro-credit projects to families living in abject poverty. However, during the interactive dialogue, States voiced their concern about the continuing vulnerability of women and children, an issue raised in the first UPR cycle. Although States agreed that progress has been made, significant concerns remain regarding the trafficking of children, ritual killings, domestic violence, and female gender mutilation. States emphasised the importance of strengthening the legal framework in Benin and creating programmes that ensure concrete advances in these areas. States also recognised the importance of providing technical and financial assistance to Benin to enable it to adequately implement recommendations.

Another recurring issue was access to secondary education for children. States were primarily concerned that fees for secondary school are causing many children to drop out. Therefore, recommendations focused on establishing programmes to provide free secondary education and to raise school attendance of girls. States also urged Benin to accelerate the process to accept the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides protection to children in relation to human trafficking and ritual killings. In its response to this issue, the delegation assured States that progress has been made and national consultations have been conducted to inform Government and other public service officials about how to improve their monitoring of these issues.

Other recommendations repeated from the first cycle included:

- To consider decriminalising homosexual activities between consenting adults. (rejected in the first cycle)
- To establish without further delay an effective and independent national preventive mechanism on torture, following the recommendation of the Committee against Torture.
- To develop a national policy and further measures concerning disabled persons in order to give them better access to health care.
- To continue its focus on the eradication of poverty and in ensuring general well-being of its people.

New recommendations during the second cycle included:

- To provide policies and programmes to fight malnutrition across the country and ensure it becomes one of the country’s national priorities.
- To allocate sufficient funding for the implementation of its newly enacted law on combating corruption.
- To adopt a concerted strategy to reduce prison population, as overcrowding in prisons remains an issue within Benin
- To expand its micro-credit programmes to small businesses, youths, and women, especially in the rural areas

The delegation explicitly recognised that much progress still needs to be made in relation to its first UPR review. Nonetheless, they emphasised their commitment to the promotion of human rights and its need to receive technical assistance from States to further advance human rights in Benin. Ms Gbedo was the only delegate to take the floor to answer the various concerns raised by States.

A total of 129 recommendations were made to Benin during this second cycle review. 122 of these recommendations enjoyed the support of Benin, while 7 were rejected on the grounds that they are already being implemented in the country. Benin also took advantage to reiterate the importance that technical assistance from States has in the strengthening human rights in the country.