



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**

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**Review of Benin**

**26 January 2023**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Benin and thanks it for its presentation today.

We strongly commend Benin on the abolition of the death penalty. We welcome all efforts to advance human rights domestically since the last UPR cycle, particularly advances in women's and children's rights.

Ireland is concerned that the definition of torture in the Penal Code remains inconsistent with the provisions of United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT). Ireland is also concerned about restrictions on the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in Benin, and the lack of accountability for excessive use of force by security forces.

Ireland recommends Benin:

1. Amend the Penal Code to ensure the criminalisation of torture is consistent with UNCAT, particularly the definition of the act of torture, and implement an absolute ban on acts of torture.
2. Develop clear guidelines for security forces on the use of force in line with principles of lawfulness, necessity and proportionality.

We wish Benin every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.