



**Convention on the Rights  
of Persons with Disabilities**

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**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Thirty-first session**

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**Consideration of reports submitted by parties to the  
Convention under article 35**

**Replies of Benin to the list of issues in relation to  
its initial report\***

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## I. Purpose and general obligations (arts. 1–4)

### Reply to the question raised in paragraph 1 (a) of the list of issues (CRPD/C/BEN/Q/1)

1. Article 26 of Act No. 90-032 of 11 December 1990 establishing the Constitution of the Republic of Benin, as amended by Act No. 2019-40 of 7 November 2019, provides that:

“The State shall ensure that all are equal before the law, irrespective of their origin, race, sex, religion, political opinion or social status.

Men and women are equal before the law. However, special provisions may be established by law to improve the representation of women in public life.

The State shall protect families, especially mothers and children. It shall provide assistance to persons with disabilities and older persons.”

### Reply to the question raised in paragraph 1 (b) of the list of issues

2. This concern is addressed in the draft implementing regulations of Act No. 2017-06 of 29 September 2017 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3. The National Policy for the Protection and Integration of Persons with Disabilities for 2012–2021 makes no reference to the term “*infirmité*” (“infirmity”) when describing persons with disabilities.

### Reply to the question raised in paragraph 1 (c) of the list of issues

4. The following measures were taken over the period 2012–2021:

- The organization of awareness-raising activities for several target groups (non-governmental organizations, local elected officials, the judiciary, journalists, social protection system actors, etc.) to support the implementation of Act No. 2017-06;
- Support for the establishment of branches of the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities in all departments;
- The allocation by the State of annual funding of 5 million CFA francs (CFAF) to the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities;
- The earmarking of an annual budget of CFAF 234 million for activities to implement the National Policy for the Protection and Integration of Persons with Disabilities;
- The establishment of the Support Fund for the Rehabilitation and Integration of Persons with Disabilities (2009–2011);
- The establishment of the National Social Development and Solidarity Fund (2011–2019);
- The establishment of the National Solidarity Support Fund (2019 to date);
- The implementation of the Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital Programme and its health insurance, training and microcredit schemes.

5. Efforts are under way to evaluate the measures taken and adopt a new national policy and action plan.

### Reply to the question raised in paragraph 1 (d) of the list of issues

6. There is ongoing collaboration with the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities and its branches.

7. A framework for dialogue, set up in 2020 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, brings together all stakeholders (representatives from sectoral ministries, civil society organizations, religious groups and development partners) working to promote the rights and preserve the dignity of persons with disabilities. These stakeholders meet at least twice a year.

8. As part of its response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Directorate for Persons with Disabilities organized several awareness-raising sessions for persons with disabilities to promote compliance with protective measures. Kits containing items such as alcohol-based hand gels, masks and hand-washing equipment were made available to persons with disabilities.

## **II. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)**

### **Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)**

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 2 (a) of the list of issues**

9. There are plans to establish an interministerial commission for equal opportunities. It is also envisaged that a number of laws will be reviewed, with a view to their possible amendment.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 2 (b) of the list of issues**

10. Administrative and judicial remedies are in place and are available to all citizens. Persons with disabilities may pursue these remedies in the same way as other citizens.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 2 (c) of the list of issues**

11. The various campaigns raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities help to prevent all forms of discrimination.

12. Cases of abuse and other violations of the rights of persons with disabilities are reported to the judicial authorities and prosecuted.

13. The Constitutional Court has also handed down a number of judgments on all forms of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 2 (d) of the list of issues**

14. No data are available.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 2 (e) of the list of issues**

15. The principle of equal opportunities is reflected in the criteria used to assess eligibility for the equal opportunities card. However, specific support may be provided depending on the type and degree (mild/severe) of disability and whether the person is able to obtain sufficient food (poverty/extreme poverty).

16. A draft decree on the creation, responsibilities and functioning of the interministerial commission responsible for authorizing the issuance of equal opportunities cards to persons with disabilities has been drawn up and is pending adoption.

### **Women with disabilities (art. 6)**

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 3 (a) of the list of issues**

17. Gender and inclusion focal points have been set up in all ministries.

18. These recommendations will be taken into account during the review of the relevant legislation and policies.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 3 (b) of the list of issues**

19. The inclusion and empowerment of women are key public policy focuses. However, there are no specific measures in place for women and girls with disabilities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 3 (c) of the list of issues**

20. Benin has been gradually expanding its court system to bring the justice system closer to the people. Three new courts of first instance have been set up in Comè, Dassa-Zoumè and Malanville. In addition, a specialized court has been established to handle economic, terrorism, drug trafficking and sexual offences.

21. The goal of the Post-2015 Education Strategic Plan is to ensure access to education for all, with a particular focus on inclusive education. Specific accommodations have also been made to facilitate the learning of persons with disabilities.

22. The following legal texts aimed at improving education for persons with disabilities have been drawn up and are pending adoption:

- The draft decree on practical arrangements for the provision of technical, human and material support for inclusive education establishments;
- The draft decree on support measures tailored to the needs of learners with disabilities and additional time granted to such learners, throughout their schooling, to complete assessments.

23. Several women with disabilities hold leadership positions.

24. The Government is implementing the Human Capital Strengthening Project to improve access to income-generating activities and health care for all women. Pregnant women are entitled to free health care. Reproductive health services have been set up for women and girls with disabilities. Services have also been established for women and girls from this group who have fallen victim to violence.

**Children with disabilities (art. 7)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 4 (a) of the list of issues**

25. Disability assessments are carried out by qualified personnel, which enables every child with a disability to receive care that is tailored to his or her specific needs.

26. Children with disabilities receive cross-cutting care.

27. There has been an increase in the budget allocated to training institutions for persons with disabilities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 4 (b) of the list of issues**

28. The following action has been taken:

- Large-scale campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of children in general and the specific rights of children with disabilities;
- The establishment of the 138 hotline to facilitate the reporting of violations of children's rights, including the rights of children with disabilities;
- The gradual introduction of inclusive education in several primary schools.

**Awareness-raising (art. 8)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 5 (a) of the list of issues**

29. National awareness-raising campaigns are organized to mark national and international days. Other activities include the running of legal clinics on human rights issues, the organization of informal discussions and the broadcasting of television programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities. Such activities have led to a change in behaviour towards this vulnerable group. All stakeholders are involved in these activities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 5 (b) of the list of issues**

30. See the reply to the question raised in paragraph 5 (a).

## **Accessibility (art. 9)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 6 (a) of the list of issues**

31. Minimum accessibility standards for all public and private buildings have been introduced and met. In addition, a number of public buildings have been brought into line with international standards.

32. All public bodies direct resources towards ensuring the effective implementation of accessibility provisions.

33. Certificates of completion may not be issued for buildings that fail to meet minimum accessibility standards. The company responsible for the work may even be excluded from public procurement procedures.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 6 (b) of the list of issues**

34. A draft decree setting out the conditions for granting tax breaks on the manufacture of means of transport specially adapted for use by persons with disabilities and the import of raw materials used to manufacture such means of transport is in the process of being adopted.

35. The other concerns will be addressed in the implementing regulations of Act No. 2017-06.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 6 (c) of the list of issues**

36. The progress made will be assessed following the implementation of the various implementing regulations and the programmes, policies and projects currently running.

## **Right to life (art. 10)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 7 of the list of issues**

37. Infanticide is an offence provided for and punishable under the Criminal Code (Act No. 2018-16 of 28 December 2018).

## **Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 8 (a) of the list of issues**

38. The documents used to create the various funds are based on the conventions ratified by Benin.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 8 (b) of the list of issues**

39. Non-discriminatory general humanitarian emergency measures have been put in place. Due regard was paid to the specific needs of persons with disabilities when circulating information on the pandemic.

## **Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 9 (a) of the list of issues**

40. The purpose of article 76 of Act No. 2019-43 of 15 November 2019 is to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their type of disability, have the opportunity to exercise their civic duty.

41. Pursuant to article 457 of the Personal and Family Code, the State offers a special protection regime for persons with disabilities.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 9 (b) of the list of issues**

42. The principle of equality before the law is unambiguous.

**Access to justice (art. 13)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 10 (a) of the list of issues**

43. A bill on legal aid is pending adoption by the National Assembly. It takes account of vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 10 (b) of the list of issues**

44. No special procedural accommodations are made for persons with disabilities involved in judicial or administrative proceedings.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 10 (c) of the list of issues**

45. There are no obstacles preventing persons with disabilities from exercising their right to give testimony and act as witnesses in court. The judicial authorities are empowered to take any measures appropriate to each specific case.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 10 (d) of the list of issues**

46. The major conventions to which Benin is party are incorporated into domestic law and implemented by the relevant stakeholders. Law enforcement officials receive continuous training and capacity-building to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities.

**Liberty and security of person (art. 14)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 11 (a) of the list of issues**

47. Act No. 2020-37 of 3 February 2021 on the Protection of Human Health sets out the conditions governing the treatment of all patients, including those with disabilities, in hospitals and other establishments.

48. Pursuant to article 9 of the Act, doctors are required to obtain the patient's consent or, if this is not possible, the consent of a person trusted by the patient before administering any treatment.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 11 (b) of the list of issues**

49. The prison service treats all prisoners with disabilities with care. They receive psychological support from the moment they are admitted to a prison facility. Other accommodations are made to facilitate their time in prison. Prisoners with intellectual or psychological disabilities or psychiatric disorders are referred to specialized care services on the instruction of the judicial authorities.

**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 12 (a) of the list of issues**

50. Act No. 2020-37 sets out the conditions governing the treatment of all patients, including those with disabilities, in hospitals and other establishments.

51. Pursuant to article 9 of the Act, doctors are required to obtain the patient's consent or, if this is not possible, the consent of a person trusted by the patient before administering any treatment.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 12 (b) of the list of issues**

52. The Government has designated the Benin Human Rights Commission as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture. Regular unannounced visits are made to all detention facilities.

## **Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 13 (a) of the list of issues**

53. Legal action is systematically taken against the perpetrators of any violence and abuse, including sexual violence and abuse, neglect, exploitation and harmful practices.

54. The National Women's Institute was set up to help victims take legal action and obtain redress.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 13 (b) of the list of issues**

55. No data are available.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 13 (c) of the list of issues**

56. A division responsible for persons with disabilities has been set up within every social advancement centre. This division helps persons with disabilities to ensure that all their needs are met. Psychosocial support is provided by the justice system's social services. Reporting mechanisms are used to pass information to the authorities.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 13 (d) of the list of issues**

57. These centres are functional and accessible.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 13 (e) of the list of issues**

58. Several legal texts have been adopted in the education sector to prohibit corporal punishment in schools and learning facilities.

59. Legal action is regularly taken against the perpetrators of corporal punishment.

## **Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 14 (a) of the list of issues**

60. No data are available.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 14 (b) of the list of issues**

61. These practices do not occur.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 14 (c) of the list of issues**

62. A number of measures have been taken, including:

- The organization of an annual fortnight-long event to raise awareness of female genital mutilation;
- The regular initiation of legal proceedings;
- The retraining of women who perform female genital mutilation;
- The involvement of civil society organizations in efforts to tackle the phenomenon;
- The setting up and running of communal and local committees on children's rights.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 14 (d) of the list of issues**

63. Pursuant to the legal provisions in force, including Act No. 2020-37, doctors are required to obtain the patient's consent or, if this is not possible, the consent of a person trusted by the patient before administering any treatment.

## **Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 15 of the list of issues**

64. Awareness continues to be raised of the importance of birth registration.
65. The legal and institutional framework has also been strengthened through the adoption of the following laws:
- Act No. 2017-08 of 19 June 2017 on the Identification of Natural Persons;
  - Act No. 2020-34 of 6 January 2021 establishing Special Provisions for Streamlining and Digitizing Civil Registration.
66. Secondary civil registration centres and units providing assistance to the public have been set up. All births are registered in the national registry, without any discrimination.

## **Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 16 of the list of issues**

67. Yes. All projects and programmes implemented seek to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy a certain degree of independence.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (a) of the list of issues**

68. A social housing construction programme is under way. A draft decree setting out the conditions governing priority access to social housing for persons with disabilities has been drawn up and is pending adoption.
69. These concerns will be addressed in due course.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (b) of the list of issues**

70. Reforms will be considered to address this concern.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (c) of the list of issues**

71. Children with disabilities face no discrimination in gaining access to community services.

## **Personal mobility (art. 20)**

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 18 (a) of the list of issues**

72. From 2020 to date, the Directorate for Persons with Disabilities has distributed more than 500 tricycles and wheelchairs to persons with disabilities.
73. The relevant measures are provided for in the following draft orders, which set out:
- Conditions for granting total or partial temporary or permanent exemptions for companies created by a person with a disability for the benefit of other such persons;
  - Conditions governing the reimbursement of approved companies through a contribution by the State to the cost of equipment supplied to persons with disabilities who are destitute.

### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (b) of the list of issues**

74. See the reply to the question raised in paragraph 18 (a).
75. A draft decree setting out the conditions governing the preferential measures for persons with disabilities using public transport is in the process of being adopted.



**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (c) of the list of issues**

76. Measures are being taken to address these concerns.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 17 (d) of the list of issues**

77. Ongoing training is organized for persons with disabilities and the specialist staff working with them.

78. A draft decree setting out the conditions governing technical support and assistance allowances for individuals caring for persons with disabilities is in the process of being adopted.

**Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 19 (a) of the list of issues**

79. Media information is made accessible to persons with disabilities through the use of sign language, subtitling, Braille and audio description. Efforts will be made to improve modes and formats of communication for persons with disabilities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 19 (b) of the list of issues**

80. The bill on the official recognition of sign language is in the process of being adopted by the National Assembly.

**Respect for privacy (art. 22)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 20 of the list of issues**

81. The privacy of all individuals, including persons with disabilities, is protected by law. There are no constraints on the privacy of persons with disabilities.

**Respect for home and the family (art. 23)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 21 of the list of issues**

82. Children are only separated from their parents when they are in danger and separation is in their best interests. In such cases, children are placed in a residential centre by order of a juvenile court judge.

**Education (art. 24)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 22 (a) of the list of issues**

83. Benin is pursuing reforms to fulfil its vision of education for all, with a particular focus on inclusive education. Measures taken include the construction of 3,000 accessible classrooms, the provision of inclusive education for 700 schoolchildren with disabilities and the allocation of university accommodation and financial support to students with disabilities.

84. Model inclusive schools are currently being piloted.

85. A number of draft decrees aimed at improving education for persons with disabilities have been drawn up and are pending adoption. These include:

- The draft decree on practical arrangements for the provision of technical, human and material support for inclusive education establishments;
- The draft decree on support measures tailored to the needs of learners with disabilities and additional time granted to such learners, throughout their schooling, to complete assessments.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 22 (b) of the list of issues**

86. Twenty teachers have been trained in sign language.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 22 (c) of the list of issues**

87. Lecture halls and other classrooms are accessible to students with disabilities. Financial support and suitable university accommodation are made available to such students.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 22 (d) of the list of issues**

88. This academic year, an inclusive education is being provided to 700 schoolchildren with disabilities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 22 (e) of the list of issues**

89. No data are available.

**Health (art. 25)**

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 23 (a) of the list of issues**

90. The existing programmes, policies and projects already offer a number of forms of preferential treatment for persons with disabilities in terms of access to health care and health-care facilities. Regulations aimed at consolidating these benefits are pending adoption.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 23 (b) of the list of issues**

91. Measures will be taken to that end.

**Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)**

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 24 (a) of the list of issues**

92. Benin has a rehabilitation programme covering 39 communes; work is under way to extend it to all localities.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 24 (b) of the list of issues**

93. A management unit is responsible for overseeing rehabilitation activities. This unit makes quarterly unannounced visits to rehabilitation centres to monitor compliance with the relevant standards.

**Work and employment (art. 27)**

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (a) of the list of issues**

94. The Labour Code is currently being reviewed. The State encourages the recruitment of persons with disabilities to fill certain positions in government.

95. Decisions to promote or demote officials are made without any discrimination on the basis of disability.

96. Efforts are being made to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in competitive examinations in the public sector.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (b) of the list of issues**

97. The increase in the frequency of labour inspections has led to a significant reduction in the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to employment. To support these inspections, awareness-raising activities have been organized for business leaders with the aim of promoting the employment of persons with disabilities.

98. The following legal texts have also been drawn up and are pending adoption:

- The draft decree on support for businesses created by persons with disabilities for the benefit of other such persons;
- The draft decree on support for persons with disabilities to create sole proprietorships, cooperatives, productive companies and small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (c) of the list of issues**

99. The authorities and courts act with complete impartiality when handling any disputes referred to them.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (d) of the list of issues**

100. Instances of denial of reasonable accommodation may be referred to the courts or the Ombudsman of the Republic in addition to the labour inspection service.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (e) of the list of issues**

101. Benin currently has no such guidelines. However, consideration will be given to whether such guidelines should be adopted.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (f) of the list of issues**

102. Draft decrees on support for businesses created by persons with disabilities for the benefit of other such persons and support for persons with disabilities to create sole proprietorships, cooperatives, productive companies and small and medium-sized enterprises have been drawn up. The effective adoption and implementation of these texts will make it possible to evaluate whether the public budgetary support earmarked for addressing this concern is adequate.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (g) of the list of issues**

103. Initiatives for the empowerment of women include:

- The Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital Programme (Alafia microcredit scheme). The funds earmarked have increased from CFAF 50,000 to CFAF 100,000;
- The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project;
- The Communal and Community Support for the Expansion of Social Services Project.

104. In addition, work was carried out with the United Nations Development Programme to develop the income-generating activities of 44 women with disabilities in four departments (Atlantique, Zou, Borgou and Alibori). These women were provided with more modern equipment to improve their working conditions and reduce the time required for their work, with a view to maximizing the growth of their income-generating activities. The equipment provided included sewing machines, knitting machines, weaving machines, machines for grinding condiments, oil mills, freezers, electric tricycles, and higher quality cooking stoves.

**Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)**

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 26 (a) of the list of issues**

105. The Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital Programme is currently being implemented. It has been rolled out to support vulnerable social groups, including persons with disabilities. It offers a range of services designed to reduce poverty.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 26 (b) of the list of issues**

106. See the reply to the question raised in paragraph 26 (a).

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 26 (c) of the list of issues**

107. The health insurance scheme provided for under the Strengthening of Human Capital Programme covers all communes and is targeted at individuals living in extreme poverty.

108. The training and microcredit schemes are currently being expanded. The retirement scheme has not yet been launched.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 26 (d) of the list of issues**

109. The social housing programme is open to all citizens, with priority given to individuals belonging to vulnerable groups. Other conditions governing the allocation of social housing have not yet been determined.

**Participation in political and public life (art. 29)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 27 (a) of the list of issues**

110. These provisions are non-discriminatory and do not prevent persons with disabilities from participating in electoral processes.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 27 (b) of the list of issues**

111. Efforts are being made with regard to accessibility. Where necessary, assistance is provided to persons with disabilities so that they can exercise their right to vote.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 27 (c) of the list of issues**

112. Participation in political and public life is open to all, without exception.

**Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 28 (a) of the list of issues**

113. Benin takes note of this recommendation.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 28 (b) of the list of issues**

114. Reforms are under way in the education and sport sectors.

115. A draft decree setting out the conditions governing the discounted fees for persons with disabilities for admission to public cultural and leisure centres has been drawn up and is pending adoption.

**Reply to the question raised in paragraph 28 (c) of the list of issues**

116. The National Paralympic Committee receives public funding.

**III. Specific obligations (arts. 31–33)****Statistics and data collection (art. 31)****Reply to the question raised in paragraph 29 of the list of issues**

117. The last general population and housing census was carried out in 2013 and offered a picture of the situation of persons with disabilities, grouped by disability type, across the country. A number of studies and surveys conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography have since provided an update on the situation, using more refined questions based on the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning. These studies and surveys include: (i) the 2018 FinScope survey on demand for financial services in Benin; (ii) the second edition of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, conducted in 2021; and

(iii) two editions of the harmonized survey on household conditions, carried out in 2018–2019 and 2021–2022.

118. The draft household questionnaire for the next general population and housing census, planned for 2023, incorporates the six key questions on functioning of the Washington Group.

### **International cooperation (art. 32)**

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 30 of the list of issues**

119. There are plans to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted by the African Union in 2018.

### **National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)**

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 31 (a) of the list of issues**

120. The resources earmarked for the National Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments are included in the budget of the Ministry of Justice and Legislation. All sectoral ministries are members of this Committee.

121. Organizations of persons with disabilities are not members of the Committee. However, they are regularly involved in the Committee's activities.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 31 (b) of the list of issues**

122. The members of the Benin Human Rights Commission are selected by their peers and appointed by decree. The Commission receives sufficient public funding to carry out its mandate.

#### **Reply to the question raised in paragraph 31 (c) of the list of issues**

123. Each sectoral ministry is represented on the National Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments. These focal points form part of the mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of all human rights instruments.

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