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Submission
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for the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in Benin

to the **Human Rights Council**
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Justification for Submission

1. The present submission is an update to review the progress that has been made by the Government of Benin (hereinafter 'GoB') to end Child Sexual Exploitation¹ (hereinafter 'CSE') and assess the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations pertaining to CSE. New recommendations to end CSE in Benin will be made.
2. The scope of this submission is limited to CSE and its different manifestations, including exploitation of children in prostitution,² online child sexual exploitation, 'child pornography',³ child trafficking for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism⁴ and child marriage.

CSE in Benin

3. In 1990 Benin transitioned peacefully from a dictatorial regime into a democracy. The country is currently ranked 16th out of 54 countries in overall governance,⁵ 11th on safety and rule of law,⁶ and 9th on participation and human rights.⁷ However, many people live in poverty as Benin has lagged economic opportunity with a 28th place in the rank⁸ and human development at 31st.⁹ Benin is ranked 166 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) scale.¹⁰ Benin has a young population with almost half of the 11 million under 18 years of age.¹¹ Families are large on average and although decreasing, the fertility rate still stands at 4.8.¹² Child labour is prevalent, involving 15% of the children while the secondary school enrolment is still quite low 68%, but has been improving rapidly. Birth registration is also improving and is currently 85%.
4. A recent study conducted by ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg on exploitation of children in prostitution and links with migration and trafficking in Djougou and Malanville gave the following main vulnerability factors: (1) early separation of the child from his family, (2) difficult social situations: early marriages, unwanted pregnancies, etc., and (3) lack of support for basic needs such as housing, food, etc.¹³ Thus child protection depends greatly on the family structure as well as social and economic circumstances. Due to poverty children are sometimes forced into the streets, either to make money or to live on the streets. These children miss out on school and thus miss out on an education and the protection offered by schools. At the same time, they are exposed to risks in their work or on the streets. Trafficking affects in particular children who have never attended school (70.7%) or who have dropped out of school (29.3%).¹⁴ Many poor children from rural areas are placed with well-to-do families¹⁵ in the hope they receive an education or vocational training, but this leaves them exposed to risks of exploitation. According to Plan International, 90% of placed children do not go to school but are instead employed at markets or used as unpaid helps in the house.¹⁶ They also often fall victim to prostitution.¹⁷ The study also noted that children who are undocumented have no access to health and education, and are at higher risk to fall victims to CSE without official identity and age as they are difficult to trace and their age is unknown.
5. The context of sexual exploitation of children differ. There is exploitation of children in prostitution, online child sexual exploitation of children (hereinafter 'OCSE') and 'child pornography', child trafficking for sexual purposes and sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism (hereinafter 'SECTT').
6. **Exploitation of children in prostitution** is a reality in Benin, with most of the victims being girls who fled early or forced marriages, were neglected or drawn in by adult sex workers or by a person within their own social network. Many work or worked in the service sector, which served

as a stepping stone into the sex market.¹⁸ Most girls participate for survival or for extra income to complete their training or set up a business.¹⁹ The ECPAT study of 2014 in Djougou and Malanville shows that four out of five minors interviewed migrated from their home village or town.²⁰ As the main reasons for migration, one out of three minors indicated they wanted to work, to learn a trade or to pursue studies.²¹ They did not migrate with the plan to engage in prostitution. The children usually have little or no education and have a complicated family background and are drawn into prostitution to escape their deprived underprivileged situation. On rarer occasions mothers exploit their child in prostitution. Most children involved are adolescents.²² The prostitution of children usually takes place at night in bars, restaurants and the street of Cotonou, Porto-Novo and Parakou. Nowadays, children also use the Internet and specific dating sites and chat services to sell sex. Another trend was noted in Cotonou and Malanville where girls, selling fruit, candy, water, also sell sex.²³ A recent study by the GoB and UNICEF confirmed that prostitution also occurs in schools, sometimes even with teachers in return for higher grades.²⁴

7. Little information exists on the prevalence of **OCSE** and ‘**child pornography**’ in Benin. Although there is no viable information on the magnitude of the issue, pornography can easily be accessed by the ‘generation Android’ on their smart phone or in video clubs and Internet cafés that remain unregulated. Currently 100% of the population has a mobile phone and 5% of the population is connected to the Internet.²⁵ Pornography is often downloaded with the mobile phone or at an Internet café via and later viewed with a small group of friends on. Some of adolescents imitate the pornography and share their own images in their network. Others use secretly obtained images to blackmail girls or as ‘revenge porn’.²⁶ Victims exploited through ‘child pornography’ are usually drawn in through the same ways they are drawn into prostitution.²⁷
8. One of the gateways into CSE is **trafficking for sexual purposes**. Benin is a source, transit, and destination country trafficking of children with sexual purposes. The Central Office for the Protection of Minors registered 103 cases of trafficking in minors (including 74 girls and 29 boys) during the first half of 2013. In 2012 159 cases of trafficking in minors were recorded.²⁸
9. According to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and ‘child pornography’, who visited Benin late 2013, found that more and more children are falling victim to **SECTT**.²⁹ SECTT cases have been reported on boys and girls in Mono and on the shores of the Bight of Benin. Malanville is located at the crossroads of Benin, Niger and Nigeria and a transport hub.³⁰ Travellers and drivers are often away from their families and these travellers will undoubtedly interact with children, e.g., street vendors, creating opportunities for offenders and risks for children. The same can be said for Cotonou, an international transport and trade hub.
10. **Child marriage**, an unacceptable human rights violation, is widely practiced in Benin where girls are exchanged for dowry. According to UNICEF 11% of children are married by the age of 15 and 32% by the age of 18,³¹ with girls disproportionately affected. The harmful tradition of abduction and rape by the spouse of his future minor wife is common communes of Coby, Mater, Toucountouna, Tanguiéta and Boukombé in Atacora/Donga.³² In addition to being violent, early marriages are associated with domestic and sexual violence, abandonment, widowhood and divorce, and perpetuate the cycle of poverty and gender based violence. In fact, child marriage, based on offering a young bride in exchange for dowry money or in-kind payments, should be regarded as a form of CSE as well as a risk to other manifestations of CSE. The child is removed from her home, school and, sometimes, community, and starts living under the absolute control of her husband and in-laws. Paradoxically, some girls end up in prostitution when trying to escape their marriage.³³ Early marriages are widespread in rural areas despite the efforts of government and NGOs to stop them through awareness raising sessions on women's and children's rights.³⁴
11. Except for child marriage, CSE manifestations are extremely difficult to statistically measure. The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs collects data in its database called ‘Childpro’ to keep

track of vulnerable children, however data entry is complicated and not done promptly. Even if the database would be kept up properly, it is doubtful that CSE could be measured accurately as both victims and offenders tend to stay away from authorities. Victims are invisible because of the immaturity of the victims, low response of authorities and the complicity of some parents.³⁵ Qualitative research is perhaps one of the best ways to assess CSE in Benin, but to date the government has not initiated a comprehensive research on CSE nor has it submitted its initial report on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, although the Protocol was ratified early 2005.

12. In the latter part of 2015, the GoB adopted the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. This framework of action commits the GoB to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation.³⁶ It is therefore timely and appropriate for Benin to strengthen its efforts to end CSE.

General recommendations to end CSE in Benin

- Collect national data and/or build national capacity to develop disaggregated data-gathering and monitoring systems to inform policy and action on CSE;
- Conduct an assessment on all CSE manifestations to develop evidence based policies and strategies;
- Submit an initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Legal framework

13. In 2015, the GoB adopted the long-awaited Child Code³⁷ providing a comprehensive legal framework for child protection from CSE and including the core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the principle of non-discrimination, the best interest of the child and incorporating child participation.
14. The Child Code prohibits sexual exploitation of children through prostitution and provides for five to ten years of imprisonment as well as fines for using a child for sexual purposes against remuneration or any other form of consideration.³⁸ This brings the law of Benin in line with article 2 (b) of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC).
15. The Child Code also prohibits ‘child pornography’ which is defined in line with article 2 (c) of the OPSC, namely as the production, distribution, dissemination, importation, exportation, offering, sale, possession of any material by any means whatsoever involving a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities.³⁹ This offense carries a penalty of two to five years’ imprisonment and fines.
16. Although the Child Code does not provide an explicit definition of SECTT, it does provide for jurisdiction over sexual exploitation committed by a foreigner on a Beninese child in the Republic of Benin or abroad. The jurisdiction extends to a situation where the offense is committed abroad by a Beninese or a non-Beninese residing or found in the Republic of Benin or, where the non-Beninese victim lives in the Republic of Benin. It does not provide for jurisdiction in case the victim is Beninese and the offense occurs outside Benin as per article 4 sub 2 (b) OPSC.
17. Child trafficking has been prohibited explicitly in the Trafficking Law of 2006.⁴⁰ The law focuses on the movement of the children, and does not sufficiently prohibit nor punish the exploitation of children that often follows the child movement.
18. Child marriage is prohibited according to Beninese legislation. However, minors under the age of 18 are still able to marry, subject to obtaining the consent of the president of the court of first instance at the request of the public prosecutor.⁴¹

Legal recommendations to end CSE

- Enact legislation to criminalize all forms of trafficking consistent with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2000.
- The legal framework of Benin is brought in line with the OPSC. The main recommendation regarding the framework is to enforce the Child Code, the Trafficking Law and the Family Law to end CSE in Benin and provide adequate resources for the government institutions mandated with the enforcement.

Coordination to end CSE

19. The main governmental institutions involved in the fight against sexual exploitation are, within the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs: ⁴²
20. The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs ensures the development and coordination of all policies and actions of the State to protect children. Several technical and specialized departments have been set up within the Ministry. The *National Coordination and Monitoring Office for Child Protection* coordinates the activities of all stakeholders involved in the protection of children and includes four technical committees: ‘Trafficking and Exploitation of Children’, ‘Juvenile Justice’, ‘Violence and harmful practices towards children’, ‘Orphans and Vulnerable Children’ and ‘Infants’. The *National Coordination and Monitoring Office for Child Protection* is composed of on the one hand state representatives including the Ministries of Family and Social Affairs, of Interior, of Defence, of Justice, of Foreign Affairs and on the other hand non-state actors including UNICEF, the US, Netherlands and Swiss development partners and child protection NGOs including the Liaison Committee of Social Organizations for the Defence of Children’s Rights (CLOSE). Each technical committee has its own action plan and proposes activities to the *National Coordination and Monitoring Office for Child Protection*, but often lack resources and sufficient mandate, slowing down their effectiveness.
21. Other important interministerial coordinating bodies are the *National Steering Committee to Combat Child Labour* of the Ministry of Labour and Civil Service and the *National Commission on Children’s Rights* that coordinates the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice.⁴³ As remarked by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, there is a need for clear demarcation of the mandates of these coordinating bodies.⁴⁴ At the commune and departmental levels, the coordination of activities is carried out by the Departmental Directorates of Family, Women and Children and *Social Advancement Centres*.
22. A *Permanent Regional Monitoring Commission* and a *National Monitoring Commission* were set up to implement the 2005 multilateral agreement between ECOWAS members in the fight against child trafficking in West Africa. This agreement obliges the States Parties to adopt and implement regional and national action plans, programs and projects to combat child trafficking.
23. The *West Africa Network for the Protection of Children*, initiated in 2002 brings together various governmental and civil society actors working to protect children in the region. The 15 States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are members of the network and Benin joined in 2011. The NGO ESAM coordinates at national level. The aim of the network is to facilitate the protection and social and economic reintegration of vulnerable children.

Recommendations regarding coordination

- Adopt a national action plan to end CSE, or at least integrate CSE in the existing national action plans on child protection and include a proper monitoring and evaluation of the plan(s).

- Increase resources for the National Coordination and Monitoring Office for Child Protection to allow the unit to provide better coordination and improve collaboration between state and non-state stakeholders.
- Increase resources of the Central Office for the Protection of Minors.
- Establish an interagency working group on CSE and the implementation of the OPSC.

Prevention

24. So far, the Benin government's actions in raising awareness and education in the field of protection of children's rights are limited, and awareness-raising campaigns have been carried out mainly through NGO initiatives. NGO ESAM, part of the CLOSE network, has taken the lead in several awareness raising campaigns against CSE. The GoB has conducted two UNICEF-supported studies on *“Perceptions, knowledge, attitudes, practices and determinants of child sexual abuse and abuse, including early marriage Children in the communes of Karimama, Za-Kpota and Pèrèrè”* in 2015 and *“Prostitution and child pornography in the towns of Cotonou and Malanville”* in 2016. However, to date the GoB still has to use the results of these studies and implement the recommendations made by the experts and members of civil society who were involved.
25. The prevention of child pornography and the OCSE remains very weak with NGO ESAM carrying out awareness-raising campaigns on this phenomenon. Recently NGO ESAM was invited by the US Embassy to provide information on the topic to representatives of various US government structures. Parents need to become more aware of the dangers and the online activities of their children to support prevention efforts.
26. Little work is done with the private sector, e.g. Internet Service Providers and the travel and tourism sector to ask for their active participation in public awareness raising and/or reporting of cases. It is important for the government to address this gap and encourage the private sector to support prevention efforts.

Recommendations on prevention

- Raise public awareness about CSE and the sanctions on the crime and coordinate, support, monitor and evaluate the awareness raising activities.
- Invest in child empowering prevention programmes to address the root causes and multiple vulnerabilities that place children, families and communities at risk. Programs to evaluate awareness-raising and prevention operations should be set up, in particular by civil society, to monitor the situation of children's rights and the fight against CSEC.
- Establish a sex offenders register to ensure the activities of offenders are monitored/restricted and the possibility for interaction with children is reduced. The arrangements for a register should be heavily regulated, with a focus on who should be allowed access, how long an offender must register for and which crimes warrant registration.
- Promoting child protective social norms through community development projects, and the media, including social media.
- Adopt mandatory policies to protect children in new public or private tourism developments, including the obligation to conduct thorough human-rights impact assessments.
- Establish government-regulated child protection standards for the tourism industry.
- Ensure that the staff working with children (e.g. in schools) have police clearances and are aware of codes of conduct and consequences of violations.

Protection

27. Benin has a solid legal framework in place to end CSE. The biggest challenge now is to enforce and implement these laws. Very few cases of CSE reach the courts⁴⁵ which demonstrates the gap between legislation and its enforcement.⁴⁶ Even if cases are reported, many are settle outside the

court due to long and difficult court procedures and fear for reprisals. There is no noteworthy enforcement of the prohibition on CSE and for instance ‘child pornography’ is freely available on the Internet. Most actors in the justice chain lack knowledge of the legal framework and implementation is therefore not properly done.⁴⁷

28. Most CSE crimes in Benin, and for that matter in the world, remain unreported. It is of vital importance that victims and witnesses, who want to report, can report. There is no 24-hour hotline available, sufficiently staffed and trained, with a widely published number and toll free. The only government number available is 116 and 117 operated by the OCPM, but this service is only available in the Cotonou and its operation is seriously hampered due to lack of resources.⁴⁸
29. The Central Office for the Protection of Minors (OCPM), which falls under the Criminal Police Department of the Ministry of Interior, leads investigations on crimes against children and it plays a leading role in the prosecution of traffickers, the rescue of children and the conduct of police investigations. The OCPM investigates offenses against children, including CSE offenses. Anyone, including child victims, may report to the OCPM. However, the work of the OCPM is seriously hampered due to inadequate funds and understaffing issues.
30. Training of the justice sector is done on an ad-hoc basis. In the past trainings were organised for the justice sector, including judges and law enforcement, by the Ministry of Justice with the support of the French Embassy, the European Union, UNICEF, Plan Benin and Terre des Hommes.⁴⁹ Since 2009, the International Bureau for Children's Rights has set up a regional project to reinforce and expanding the services of the OCPM and to prevent human trafficking. Standard Operating Procedures have been developed for child protection services, police stations and the national police force. A training kit has been developed on children’s rights for law enforcement and another kit is under development for social workers.⁵⁰
31. Although the OCPM has recorders to record testimonies from children, the police and court procedures do not always respect the international standards to protect children. The hearing rooms are not always child friendly, while psychologists and social workers are not always present. Medical services and transport are often not subsidised and thus mostly unaffordable. The protection of the child victim in Benin lacks coordination and cooperation across all the actors.

Recommendations on protection

- Ensure that law enforcement agencies have the resources and skills to identify, investigate and respond to CSE and are able to use child-friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses, and that enforcement is not undermined by corruption or social tolerance for CSE;
- Invest in the development of analytical tools and new investigative techniques to enable law enforcement to identify perpetrators and rescue victims;
- Prioritise government officials and teachers that commit CSE offenses by prosecuting their offences vigilantly;
- Cooperate across agencies and borders among the police and judiciary to allow exchange of information for investigations and prosecution of every case where a person is suspected or accused of having sexually exploited a child in another country;
- Create incentives for companies that prioritise child protection;
- Fight corruption to prevent impunity;
- Establish and fund a nationwide hotline services, sufficiently staffed and trained, 24 hours available, with a broadly published number and toll free;
- Establish dedicated units in the law enforcement and prosecution office that address online sexual crimes against children, including child sexual exploitation material;
- Police empowered to acts as undercover agents online in the context of an investigation of ‘child pornography’ offences;
- Involve the private sector’s engagement, including Internet service providers to block and report CSE content on the Internet;

- Sign the WePROTECT government statement of action
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484757/FINAL_Country_SOA_111215.pdf;
- Conduct a self-assessment related to their adherence to the WePROTECT Model National Response
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477580/WePROTECT - Model National Response 2 .pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477580/WePROTECT_-_Model_National_Response_2_.pdf);
- Involve the private sector's engagement, the travel and tourism industry;
- Enhance the regular exchange of up to date information about travelling child sex offenders among law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions of countries of demand, supply and victimisation, including greater use of the following tools:
 - INTERPOL 'Green Notice' for convicted sex offenders who are likely to reoffend in other countries;
 - denying entry to convicted child sex offenders who are likely to reoffend;
 - the development of sex offender registries that comply with the international standards on confidentiality and privacy;

Recovery and reintegration

32. The care of CSE victims in Benin is provided by the government and civil society. However, both government and NGOs have limited budget and thus services provided are insufficient in both quality and quantity.
33. The Social Advancement Centres of the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs offer basic social services throughout the country while the OCPM has a reception and transit centre in Cotonou for emergency care children. Legal, medical and psychological assistance is offered to them upon arrival. Minors, mostly victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation, are then placed in homes run by NGOs.
34. Local anti-trafficking and child exploitation committees, established by the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs with the support of UNICEF and other technical and financial partners, provide protection to child victims of trafficking through education of their co-villagers and support the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims in the community. They operate on a voluntary basis. The committees are often lacking in resources and not always functional in each village.
35. The government does not run any long-term shelters; thus, victims depend in the long term on NGOs. Since October 2008, the ESAM NGO, part of the CLOSE network, set up a private school called '*The House of Childhood*' in Akotomey, Bopa Commune (Department of Mono) to enable trafficked or vulnerable to attend school. This school provides free primary education and for the year 2016-2017 enrolled 194 pupils, including 79 girls. From 2011 to 2014 ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg funded a regional programme against trafficking and CSE implemented in Benin by three NGOs, ESAM, GRADH and PIED. The programme provided protection to vulnerable children and young people through local development of sustainable livelihoods, education and capacity-building. It also included the social and economic reintegration of child victims of violence through access to education, vocational training and psychosocial recovery. GRADH and PIED took care of 312 children of both sexes trafficked or sexually exploited in the north of the country. Furthermore 104 people were trained on CSE in six training sessions in Djougou, Malanville and Kandi. In addition to training courses for CSE actors, 57 people from transit centres received training on the standards of care for vulnerable children in transit centres and CSE.

Recommendations on recovery and reintegration

- Offer tailored recovery and reintegration services to CSE victims;
- Ensure that child-sensitive services are available and regulated by quality standards, implemented by knowledgeable, well-trained staff with adequate resources and easily accessible to all children;
- Develop emergency shelters for child victims who offer integrated services (psychological, legal, medical, etc.), pending the decision of the juvenile judge;
- Strengthen the capacities of the staff of childcare facilities that care for children who are victims of sexual CSE, including identification of victims and methods of intervention;
- Ensure that CSE victims are not treated as criminals; the burden of proof falls on the authorities and not on the victim.

Child and Youth Participation

36. The Child Code grants the right to children to express their views in any judicial or administrative proceedings that concern them.⁵¹

37. The National Advisory Council for Children, which succeeded the Children's Parliament of Benin, is made up of 25 children aged between 8 and 17 years. The Council was initiated in 2012 by ESAM, Plan Benin and the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs. The Council aims to promote the participation of children in the defence of their rights at national, regional and international levels by taking part in debates on relevant issues and by involving them in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant laws.

In addition, village children's development committees have been set up by several NGOs such as Plan Belgium, notably through their PACTE program. Through this initiative, 278 village child protection committees have been set up and more than 10,000 children are registered in the Mono region.

The 'Children Reporters' project is a platform for exchanges to promote the participation of children through the media, including their rights and duties. This project was implemented by the DFEA, with the support of UNICEF, and the *Social Advancement Centres* who are responsible for guiding these children with the help of journalists.

In addition to these various initiatives, there are many children-led programs that discuss and debate their rights to radio, both nationally and locally.

Recommendations on child and youth participation

- Ensure that the voice of the child is heard and taken into consideration in all legal and social proceedings affecting the child;
- Work with children as an agent for change, e.g. through social media channels and with the global Bill of Rights for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. ECPAT and partners developed the Bill of Rights for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse with the input of 400 children and youth, most of whom are CSE survivors from 28 countries. The Bill of Rights was endorsed at the Global Forum for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Exploitation on 18 November 2016. English: <http://bit.ly/BoReng>, French: <http://bit.ly/BoRfr>;

Comité de Liaison des Organisations Sociales de défense des droits de l'Enfant (CLOSE)



Comité de Liaison des Organisations Sociales de défense des droits de l'Enfant (CLOSE) is a network of more than 30 NGOs concerned with the protection of children against sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. CLOSE was established in 1998 and became an affiliate member of ECPAT International in March 2002. This network was set up to mobilise actors to combat trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM) is the coordinator for the network.

ECPAT International



ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children. For the past 26 years, ECPAT has acted as the international watchdog, monitoring States' response to sexual exploitation of children, and advocating for robust international measures to protect children from sexual exploitation. ECPAT International currently has 95 network members operating in 86 countries.

¹ The used term is in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 24, accessed on 1 March 2017, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

² ECPAT prefers the term ‘exploitation of children in prostitution’ instead of ‘child prostitution’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 29, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

³ ECPAT prefers the term *child sexual exploitation or abuse materials*, but in a legal context still uses ‘child pornography’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 39, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 54.

⁵ Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2016), “*A decade of African governance 2006 – 2015, Ibrahim Index of African Governance*”, 18, accessed on 10 March 2017 <http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag/downloads/>.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 26.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 38.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 48.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 62.

¹⁰ UNDP (2015), “*Human Development Report 2015*”, accessed 11 March 2017, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report.pdf.

¹¹ United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 138, accessed on 10 March 2017, https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf.

¹² The World Bank (2014), “*Fertility rate, total (births per woman)*”, accessed 11 March 2017, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?>.

¹³ ECPAT France et ECPAT Luxembourg (2014), “*Etude sur la prostitution des mineurs et ses liens avec la migration et la traite dans les villes de Djougou et Malanville au Bénin*”, accessed 12 March 2017, http://ecpat.lu/sites/default/files/resources/ECPAT_Rapport%20final%20Etude%20BENIN_Juin%202014.pdf.

¹⁴ ECPAT International (2014), “*Rapport Global de Suivi de la mise en œuvre des actions de lutte contre l’exploitation sexuelle des enfants à des fins commerciales, Benin*”, accessed 12 March 2017, <http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/GlobalMonitoring-BENIN.pdf>.

¹⁵ This placement is called “*vidomégon*”.

¹⁶ A/HRC/25/48/Add.3, “*Rapport de la Rapporteuse spéciale sur la vente d’enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie impliquant des enfants, Najat Maalla M’jid: mission au Benin*”, OHCHR (4 March 2014), para. 12, accessed on 13 March 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/CountryVisits.aspx>

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, para 15.

¹⁸ Government of Benin and UNICEF (2016), “*Enquête sur la prostitution et la pornographie impliquant les enfants dans les villes de Cotonou et de Malanville*”, 18.

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- ¹⁹ Government of Benin and UNICEF (2016), “*Enquête sur la prostitution et la pornographie impliquant les enfants dans les villes de Cotonou et de Malanville*”, 35.
- ²⁰ ECPAT France et ECPAT Luxembourg (2014), “*Etude sur la prostitution des mineurs et ses liens avec la migration et la traite dans les villes de Djougou et Malanville au Bénin*”, accessed 12 March 2017, http://ecpat.lu/sites/default/files/resources/ECPAT_Rapport%20final%20Etude%20BENIN_Juin%202014.pdf, 77.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, 77.
- ²² Government of Benin and UNICEF (2016), “*Enquête sur la prostitution et la pornographie impliquant les enfants dans les villes de Cotonou et de Malanville*”, 10.
- ²³ Government of Benin and UNICEF (2016), “*Enquête sur la prostitution et la pornographie impliquant les enfants dans les villes de Cotonou et de Malanville*”, 34.
- ²⁴ Government of Benin and UNICEF (2016), “*Enquête sur la prostitution et la pornographie impliquant les enfants dans les villes de Cotonou et de Malanville*”, 28.
- ²⁵ United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 134, accessed on 10 March 2017, https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf.
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