



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of BAHRAIN

Madame President,

As Slovenia is a first speaker in the second UPR cycle let me begin by stressing the importance of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a unique process for the protection and implementation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that the second UPR cycle will be as successful as the first cycle.

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Bahrain and would like to thank the delegation for their national report and the presentation today.

Slovenia would like to commend Bahrain for acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities last year which was a positive step during the implementation period after the first UPR cycle.

We regret that before turning to our recommendations from the first cycle of the review we have to turn to the overall human rights situation in Bahrain and emphasise our concerns over serious human rights violations in the country in particular during last year. In this regard we **recommend** to Bahrain to take immediate actions to restore peace and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore we **recommend** the Government to take actions to provide accountability for human rights violations.

Turning to recommendations given by Slovenia in the first cycle of the UPR, let me express our regret to note that reservations to CEDAW have not been removed, the Optional Protocol has not been ratified by Bahrain and consequently the national legislation has not been harmonised with international standards. We would like to underline that the gender perspective should be taken into account in all times. We would therefore like to repeat the **recommendation** to Bahrain to withdraw reservations to CEDAW as well as to other conventions and to ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and other outstanding core human rights instruments.

We **recommend** responding favourably to the requests for visit of the country and also facilitating the visits of the Special Rapporteur on migrants, Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Thank you.