

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the high-level delegation of Ecuador, led by H.E. Mr. L. M. Garcés, Vice-President, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Since the previous review, Slovakia acknowledges the adoption of Ecuador's new constitution in 2008, establishing the general framework for the protection of human rights. We also commend Ecuador for having acceded recently to CRPD and its OP, OP CAT, OP to ICESCR as well as CED.

Slovakia would like to present Ecuador the following recommendations:

- 1. to promote, protect and respect the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association in compliance with country's international HR obligations,**
- 2. to ensure that all human rights activists operating in the country, including individuals cooperating with UN HR mechanisms, are spared from any criminalisation, harassment or intimidation and can perform freely their legitimate duties,**
- 3. to fully align Ecuador's national legislation with all obligations arising out of the Rome Statute of the ICC,**
- 4. to exert its utmost efforts to eradicate the persistent widespread phenomenon of child labour,**
- 5. Last, but not least, Slovakia recommends Ecuador to consider an early ratification of the newest international HR instrument – the third OP to CRC on a communication procedure.**

I thank you, Mme. President.