

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Finland, led by Heidi HAUTALA....., for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Finland is a democratic country, member of the European Union with an outstanding human rights record. We take a positive note of a broad, open national consultation process accompanying the preparation of the report. Slovakia values, in particular, Finland's contribution towards the materialisation of the new third OP to CRC on a communication procedure, Finland being among the first group of countries signing this new international HR instrument here in Geneva three months ago. We also note with appreciation the recent establishment of an independent Human Rights Centre and associated Human Rights Delegation attached to the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, jointly constituting Finland's National Human Rights Institution.

Slovakia would like to present Finland the following two recommendations:

1. to pursue appropriate, efficient policies to eliminate the social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups, in particular mentally disabled children, immigrant and refugee children and children from ethnic minorities at schools,
2. to reinforce its efforts, such as the drafted National Action Plan for Reducing Crime, to eliminate the phenomenon of bullying and violence at schools.

I thank you, Mme. President.