

82

UPR13/India/Statement by Slovakia
24 May, 2012

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Mme. President,

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

Slovakia acknowledges India's progress in advancing its human rights record since the first review. We welcome, inter alia, the steps taken towards a better women's political participation, the recent establishment of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights or for issuing the standing invitation to HRC special procedures last year. Slovakia also commends the country for the constructive role played in human rights related issues within the UN system, including the Human Rights Council as well as its regular contribution to the OHCHR budget.

Slovakia would like to present India the following recommendations:

1. While acknowledging the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2004, Slovakia recommends India **to abolish the capital punishment** in its legal system **and commute the existing death sentences to life imprisonment terms,**
2. **to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act or adopt the negotiated amendments to it that would address the accountability of security personnel, the regulation concerning detentions as well as victims' right to appeal in accordance to international standards,**
3. **to reinforce its efforts in provision of free and compulsory primary education.** Slovakia has taken a positive note of the adoption of the Right to Education Act in 2009, which introduced a new fundamental right for free and compulsory education of children in a neighbourhood school.
4. **to ratify the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court, including its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities,**
5. Last, but not least, Slovakia **recommends India 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.