



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

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UPR of INDIA

We thank the delegation of India for their presentation *and for answers provided to our advance questions.*

We recognize that since the first cycle of the UPR, government policies have resulted in a number of positive developments regarding the human rights situation in India, such as increased access to education, improved access to sanitation and to safe drinking water, decriminalization of homosexuality and an open invitation to special procedures mandate holders.

With regard to recommendations from the first cycle, we appreciate the information provided on the integration of a gender perspective in India's policies and about some progressive steps taken with respect to women's ownership of assets. We hope that the adopted gender equality policies will be implemented thoroughly and quickly.

We nevertheless regret that the recommendation to amend the Special Marriage Act so as to give equal rights to property accumulated during marriage – in line with CEDAW recommendation – has not been implemented yet. We welcome the recent news that the Cabinet of the Government of India has been debating the possibility of amending the Special Marriage Act, and **recommend** that India does so before its next review.

Additionally, we wish to make the following **recommendations**:

- implement treaty body recommendations and develop a national action plan to eliminate all forms of discrimination,
- meet the stated commitment from the Common Minimum Program of 2004 to dedicate 3% of India's GDP to health and 6% to education,
- ensure that every household enjoys the right to safe drinking water and sanitation,
- adopt measures to tackle corruption and the diversion of funds from government welfare schemes.

Thank you.