

UPR13/Netherlands/Statement by Slovakia
24 May, 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, led by H.E. Ms. Liesbeth Spies, Minister of Interior and Kingdom Relations, for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia values the great importance accorded traditionally by the Netherlands to the observance and promotion of internationally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms at a domestic as well international level. We note with appreciation open and inclusive national consultation process accompanying the preparation of the report. Slovakia has also taken a positive note of the interim report on the follow-up to the recommendations of the first cycle put forward in 2010. Since the first UPR cycle, we welcome, in particular, the establishment of a national Institute for Human Rights in 2012 to operate in accordance with the Paris Principles, the Children's Ombudsman functioning since 2011 and the introduction of Municipal anti-discrimination services in 2009. At the same time, Slovakia commends the Netherlands for its ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2011, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2010, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2009 as well as the process leading towards a ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities including its optional protocol. Another remarkable achievement is the new action plan 'Children Safe' launched in January 2012 to address a child abuse.

Slovakia would like to present the Netherlands the following two recommendations:

- 1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, signed by the Netherlands on 24 September 2009,
- 2. 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.