



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

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UPR of TUNISIA

Madame President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Tunisia and thanks for the preparation and presentation of the informative national report and for Tunisia's commitment to the UPR process.

We commend the Government of Tunisia for a remarkable improvement of the human rights situation in the country since its first UPR review. The progress achieved is even more admirable in the light of the turbulent democratic changes that have been taking place in Tunisia in the last year and a half. Slovenia welcomes the fact that Tunisia ratified and acceded to all international human rights instruments as recommended in the first cycle of the UPR and by other international human rights bodies and **recommends** that the Government also signs and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure. We furthermore express great satisfaction with Tunisia's cooperation with treaty bodies and commend the Government for extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders.

With regard to women's rights and gender equality, we wish to express our deep appreciation for the positive measures taken by the Government such as the inclusion of the gender parity requirement in the Constituent Assembly electoral law and the withdrawal of reservations to the CEDAW. There are, however, outstanding issues in this field to be dealt with. We join CEDAW in urging Tunisia to adopt effective legislation and policies to accelerate the eradication of employment discrimination against women and we **recommend** the Government to include greater access of women to paid employment among the measures to be taken to achieve social justice and resist poverty and marginalization. We would like to **ask** the Tunisian delegation to elaborate upon the measures taken to combat the growing incidence of violence and threats of violence against women. Moreover, we are **interested in** at what stage the embodiment of gender equality in the text of the constitution is and what the obstacles to a nation-wide consensus on this issue are.

We believe that children represent one of the most vulnerable segments of the population and therefore encourage Tunisia to ensure full respect of their rights. In this regard we would like the Tunisian delegation to **elaborate** upon the measures taken to prevent and combat child labor, which seems to be a recurring problem in the country. We also encourage the Government to pay particular attention to and implement the recommendations put forward by the CRC, in particular the ones concerning the prevention of violence against children, the juvenile justice system, and girls' access to education, employment and health care.

Thank you.