

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom, led by H.E. Lord McNally, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises the traditional role of the United Kingdom as an active, responsible defender and promoter of human rights across the world. We take a positive note of a broad, open and inclusive national consultation process accompanying the preparation of the report, at the same time the declared commitment to engage civil society organisations in the follow-up to the review. Since the first UPR cycle, we welcome, in particular, the adoption of the Equality act in 2010 and the ratification of two further international treaties: CRPD in 2009 and the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2008.

Slovakia would like to present United Kingdom the following three recommendations:

- 1. to incorporate fully, as a matter of urgency, the principles and provisions of the CRC into domestic law.** Slovakia welcomes the UK's announcement in December 2010 that it would give due consideration to the CRC when making new policy and legislation as well as the withdrawal of its final two reservations to the Articles 22 and 37c of the Convention in 2008.
- 2. to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account when arresting, detaining, sentencing or considering early release for a sole or primary carer of the child, bearing in mind that visits of a parent in prison are primarily a right of the child rather than a privilege of the prisoner that can be withdrawn as a disciplinary measure,**
- 3. Last, but not least, Slovakia recommends the United Kingdom 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.