

Mme. President,

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

Slovakia recognises Ghana's commitment to advance its human rights record since the first review. We perceive positively the ratification of CRPD in July this year, the alignment of the Human Trafficking Act (Act 694) with the Palermo Protocol in 2009, as well as the Constitution review process undertaken with a human rights perspective, with particular focus on the provisions affecting children's rights. We commend Ghana for having consulted its civil society in the process of drafting the national report. Ghana should also be credited for its standing invitation issued to HRC Special Procedures.

Slovakia would like to present Ghana the following recommendations:

- 1. to impose an immediate official moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolish the capital punishment entirely as recommended by the Constitution Review Commission, while commuting the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms,**
- 2. to improve, as a matter of urgency, conditions in prisons and detention centres, in particular inmates' access to food, medical care and overcrowding,**
- 3. to consider an early ratification of the newest international HR instrument – the third OP to CRC on a communication procedure,**
- 4. to complete the process of full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.**

I thank you, Mme. President.