

Mme. President,

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

Slovakia recognises Guatemala's dedication to advance its human rights record since the first review. Noteworthy is the progress achieved in bringing to justice of those allegedly responsible for serious human rights violations committed during the past internal armed conflict. We perceive positively the ratification of CRPD in 2009 and OP-CAT in 2008 as well as the cooperation with UN HR mechanisms, including the standing invitation to special procedures and the support extended to the OHCHR Guatemala's office. As another remarkable achievement we note the 2008 Act on Access to Public Information.

Slovakia would like to present Guatemala the following recommendations:

1. while appreciating the de facto moratorium on executions since 2000, Slovakia recommends **that Guatemala take steps towards abolishing the death penalty entirely, while committing the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms.** We welcomed the presidential vetoes against recent attempts to resume executions.
2. **to safeguard legitimate rights of individuals belonging to indigenous communities in relation to land disputes, in particular in rural areas, reforming eviction procedures to comply with international standards,**
3. **to consider an early ratification of the newest international HR instrument – the third OP to CRC on a communication procedure,**
4. welcoming Guatemala's accession to the Rome Statute of ICC in April this year, Slovakia recommends **to complete the process of full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under the Statute and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.**

I thank you, Mme. President.