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BRANISLAV LISAK

UPR14/Pakistan/Statement by Slovakia
30 October, 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia commends Pakistan for steps taken in response to its first UPR review, most notably the ratification of ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, OP to CRC on the sale of children as well as CRPD. We perceive positively the introduction of constitutional amendments enabling greater provincial autonomy and equitable federal-province relations. At the same time, noteworthy is the adoption of the National Commission for Human Rights Bill as well as of new legislation designed to protect women and girls from violence, such as the Protection of Women Act. Pakistan can also be credited for steps taken to re-instate the independence of its judiciary.

Slovakia would like to present Pakistan the following recommendations:

- 1. to take appropriate, efficient measures to prevent discrimination and violence against religious minorities, bringing instigators to religious violence to justice,**
- 2. to train its law enforcement personnel on gender sensitivity and equality,**
- 3. while noting a number of initiatives taken to combat child labour, we recommend Pakistan to enact efficient legislation to prohibit and prevent the employment children as domestic workers,**
- 4. to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, aligning fully the national legislation with all obligations under the Statute, including accession to its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities,**
- 5. 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.