

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Korea, led by the Vice-Minister of Justice, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia acknowledges Republic of Korea's commitment to advance its human rights record since the first review. We note with appreciation the involvement of its civil society in the preparation of the national report. At the same time, Slovakia welcomes the adoption of the second National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2012-2016 or the enactment of the „Framework Act on International Development Cooperation“, stipulating „promoting human rights of women and children“, „fulfilling gender equality“, and „promoting humanitarianism“ as fundamental principles of Korea's official development assistance. The country should also be credited for the withdrawal of its reservations to paragraph 3 of Article 9 of CRC, the amendment to the Mental Health Act with a view to prevent potential human rights violations at mental health institutions and to the Act on Prohibition of Age Discrimination in Employment and Aged Employment Promotion or to the Act on the Protection of Children and Juveniles from Sexual Abuse and many other legal norms with HR impact, in particular in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities..

Slovakia would like to present Korea the following recommendations:

1. while appreciating the de facto moratorium on execution since 1997, we recommend to **take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, while commuting the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms,**
2. to recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service and introduce alternative service for in line with international standards,
3. to ensure that domestic violence is properly punished and victims, including those of marital rape, are properly protected,
4. and last but not least, 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.