

Mme. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Zambia, led by H.E. Mr. Musa Mwenye, Minister of Justice, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises steps taken by Zambia in the follow-up to its first review. Noteworthy is the progress achieved in provision of universal primary education through the introduction of compulsory school attendance, infrastructure development as well as increased teachers' training. We also commend Zambia for its ratification of CRPD and CPED. At the same time, Slovakia perceives positively the standing invitation issued to HRC special procedures. We have taken a positive note of the attainment of the 50% representation of women at the High and Supreme Courts.

Slovakia would like to present Zambia the following recommendations:

- 1. to improve, as a matter of urgency, conditions in prisons and detention centres vis-à-vis their severe overcrowding, including inmates' access to food and hygiene,**
- 2. to ensure effective implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act with particular focus on victims' access to justice,**
- 3. to adopt and implement appropriate measures to address the sexual abuse and exploitation of children as well as child labour,**
- 4. to consider an early ratification of the newest international HR instrument – the third OP to CRC on a communication procedure,**
- 5. 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 accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.**

I thank you, Mme. President.