

UPR15/Burundi/Statement by Slovakia  
24 January, 2013

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Burundi, led by H.E. Clotilde Niragira, Minister of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process. Slovakia acknowledges Burundi's commitment to the follow-up of the recommendations received in the first review. Above all, Slovakia commends the abolition of the death penalty under the New Penal Code in 2009. Noteworthy is the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution in 2011. We have also taken a positive note of a Child and Family Department established within the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender after Burundi's consideration before CRC in 2010.

Slovakia would like to present Burundi the following recommendations:

1. While welcoming the definition and prohibition of torture in the 2009 Criminal Code, **we recommend reinforcing human rights training to the law enforcement personnel and to members of security forces and to hold duly accountable all those responsible for extrajudicial killings and other excessive use of force,**
2. **to ensure the safety and well-being of human rights defenders so that they are able to carry out freely their legitimate duties,**
3. While we appreciate the strengthened sanctioning of violence against women and children or a clearer definition of rape in the 2009 Criminal Code, **we recommend to adopt and implement appropriate, efficient measures to address the high incidence of sexual violence against women and girls, including addressing the reported widespread impunity of perpetrators,**
4. **to consider ratification of the 3rd Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

I thank you, Mr. President.