

UPR15/France/Statement by Slovakia
21 January, 2013

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29

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of France, led by H.E. Mr. Francois Zimeray, for the presentation of the country report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises the traditional role of France as an active, responsible defender and promoter of human rights across the world. Since the first UPR cycle, we welcome, in particular, the ratification of CRPD, CPED as well as OP-CAT, including the establishment of the Office of the Controller-General of Places of Deprivation of Liberty as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture. We take a positive note of the 2008 constitutional amendment granting everyone the right to apply to the Constitutional Council for a ruling on the constitutionality of a law. Another remarkable achievement is the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Rights last May or the Roma Inclusion Strategy focusing on Roma populations' access to education, employment, health care and housing. Slovakia also commends France for its interim report on the effective implementation of the recommendations addressed to it during the first cycle in 2010.

Slovakia would like to present France the following three recommendations:

1. to withdraw its reservation to the article 29 of CRPD and to engage in consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities to identify steps needed to implement the Convention,
2. to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, signed in 1962,
3. 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, Mr. President.

Mr. Lysa' &