



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of FRANCE

Mr. President,

Slovenia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of France and appreciates their detailed presentation, *as well as the answer provided to our advance question.*

During the first review, Slovenia drew attention to positive developments in the area of gender equality, and we note with appreciation further efforts of France in this area, in particular the establishment of the new Ministry for the Rights of Women.

On the other hand, we note with concern the information of UNESCO on the high number of severely endangered languages in the French Republic. As these represent important cultural heritage, not only on the national but also on the European level, we welcome the stated intention of France to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and to make corresponding changes to the constitution. *Have any steps been taken yet in this regard? What is the envisioned time-frame for this ratification?*

In this context, we would like to **recommend** that France ensures that the public broadcasting system increases the time allocated to regional language programs and that sufficient financial and human resources are made available for this purpose. We also **recommend** engaging the NGOs active in the field of language protection in the follow-up to the UPR and in the preparation of the next UPR report.

Thank you.