

22 January, 2013

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Mali, led by ....., for the presentation of the country report. Slovakia acknowledges the gravity of the security situation Mali has been recently faced with, in this regard we commend its Government for the cooperation with the Human Rights Council and other UN HR mechanisms, including this participation in the UPR Working Group. Slovakia acknowledges Mali's commitment to the follow-up of the recommendations received in the first review. We welcomed, in particular, the signature of the 3rd Optional Protocol to the CRC and the ratification of CRPD and its OP in 2008 as well as CPED in 2009.

Slovakia would like to present Mali the following recommendations:

1. while noting with appreciation steps taken by the Government in this regard, we **recommend to approve the draft bill leading to the complete abolition of the death penalty,**
2. **to address expeditiously the reported recruitment of child soldiers by the rebel groups in accordance to international HR standards,**
3. **to ensure prompt and credible investigation of all alleged cases of sexual violence perpetrated by armed groups regardless their affiliation and provide appropriate redress to victims,**
4. **to ensure full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.**

I thank you, Mr. President.

Veronika Kossuthova