

UPR15/Serbia/Statement by Slovakia
30 January, 2012

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Serbia, led by, for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia acknowledges Serbia's progress in advancing its human rights record since the first review. In this context, we welcomed the adoption of an extensive list of important legal norms, such as the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, establishing the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. Serbia should be also credited for its Ombudsman's "A" status accreditation in compliance with the Paris Principles. Noteworthy is the ratification of CRPD and its OP, CPED as well as the signature of the new OP to CRC on a communications procedure among the first group of countries last year.

Slovakia would like to present Serbia the following three recommendations:

1. **to continue pursuing appropriate, sensitised policies, such as the National Strategy on Resolving the Issue of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons for the period 2011–2014, to address the situation of such persons in a durable, sustainable manner.** Slovakia acknowledges the primacy of Serbia as a country with the highest number of refugees and internally displaced persons on the continent and recognizes its efforts and results achieved so far, including its cooperation at a regional level, most recently within the Sarajevo process. The contribution of the 2011 Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence should be also noted in this regard.
2. **to reinforce judicial reforms, initiated in 2009 with a view to ensure judiciary's independence, transparency, efficiency and accessibility.** Slovakia has taken a positive note of the adoption of a number of related legislation, such as laws on Judges, on Organisation of Courts, on High Judicial Council, Law on Public Prosecution, on the State Prosecutorial Council and on the Constitutional Court or the National Judicial Reform Strategy's implementation.
3. and last but not least, **to resolve alleged discrimination in the restitution of property with regard to certain minority religious groups.**

I thank you, Mr. President.