

61

UPR16/Azerbaijan/Statement by Slovakia
30 April 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, led by H.E. Mr. Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and thank it for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia has noted, since the first review, the ratification of CRPD and its OP as well as OP to CAT in 2009. We commend, in particular, the renewed accreditation of the Human Rights Commissioner of Azerbaijan under the „A“ status in accordance to the Paris principles in March last year. Noteworthy is also country's contribution to the OHCHR budget.

Slovakia would like to present Azerbaijan the following recommendations:

- 1. to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression in line with country's international commitments,**
- 2. to alleviate administrative procedure for peaceful assemblies and adopt effective measures to prevent use of force against peaceful protestors by the law enforcement personnel,**
- 3. to harmonise national legislation governing registration and funding of NGOs with the Venice Commission recommendations with a view to ensure free and open space for its civil society,**
- 4. to ensure prompt, transparent and impartial investigation and prosecution of all alleged attacks against independent journalists, ensuring that media workers do not face reprisals for their publications,**
- 5. to sign and ratify the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

Thank you, Mr. President.