

UPR16/Burkina Faso/Statement by Slovakia  
22 April 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Burkina Faso, led by H.E. Ms. Julie Prudence Somda-Nigna, Minister for Human Rights and Civil Promotion, and thank it for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises the ratification of a number of international HR instrument since the first review, such as CRPD and its OP, CPED and OP to CAT. Noteworthy is the enactment of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices in 2008. We at the same time acknowledge the establishment of a Committee for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. We also commend the creation of a National Committee for Combating the Practice of Excision and the National Action Plan: "Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation"

Slovakia would like to present Burkina Faso the following recommendations:

1. While taking a positive note of the de facto moratorium on the capital punishment since 1988, we **recommend to take further steps leading to a formal abolition of the death penalty, commuting the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms.** We perceive positively steps taken in the follow-up to the first review, currently being considered by the National Assembly, concerning ratification of the OP2 to the ICCPR.
2. **To undertake necessary judicial reforms with a view to ensure the independence of judiciary and to improve access to justice in particular of the most vulnerable groups,**
3. **To exert utmost efforts to eliminate and prevent the child labour, in particular in the mining sector, agriculture and as domestic servants,**
4. **To accede to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,**
5. and last but not least, **to consider the ratification of the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

Thank you, Mr. President.