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UPR16/Cameroon/Statement by Slovakia 1 May 2013

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Mr. President,

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

Slovakia recognises the recent ratification of OPAC to CRC. Since the first review, we commend, in particular, the upgraded accreditation of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon in accordance with the Paris principles. Noteworthy is also the adoption of the Act on Legal Aid and the Act on the Protection and Advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

Slovakia would like to present Cameroon the following recommendations:

- 1. while taking a positive note of the de facto moratorium on the capital punishment since 1997, we recommend to take further steps leading to a formal abolition of the death penalty, commuting all existing sentences to life imprisonment terms,
- 2. to allocate appropriate resources with a view to improve conditions in prisons and detention centres, in particular to address their infrastructural needs, inmates access to safe drinking water and food, sanitation, medical care as well as to legal counsel,
- 3. to review legislation and enact legislation that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, guarantees equal treatment and equal opportunity and protects them from harassment, violence and abuse in all aspects of life,
- 4. and last but not least, to ratify OPSC to CRC as well as the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.