

UPR16/Cuba/Statement by Slovakia  
1 May 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Cuba led by H. E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia would like to ask Cuba one question and present the following two recommendations:

In line with the objectives of the UPR mechanism as well as modalities concerning the documentation accompanying the review as stipulated in the HRC resolution 5/1 and other related HRC resolutions and decisions, please elaborate on how had the Government consulted all relevant stakeholders in preparation of the national report and after it was finalised, how has it been brought to the attention of the general public?

Recommendations:

1. **We recommend Cuba to ratify without any further unjustified delays the ICCPR as well as the ICESCR,**
2. **In recognition of the Internet as a major driving force in accelerating development in its various forms and as an important tool for exercising human rights, in particular with regards to the right to freedom of expression as well as freedom of information, we recommend Cuba, given the recent technological arrangements with country's partners, to make the Internet widely available and accessible to the general public.**

Thank you, Mr. President.