

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, led by H. E. Mr. Markus Loening, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and thank it for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia recognises Germany's efforts to advance its human rights record since the first review and in general, the accentuation and significant resources traditionally dedicated to this agenda at both, national and international level. We have noted the ratification of CRPD and its OP, OP to CAT, CPED, OPSC to CRC, welcoming in particular the accession to the newest OP to CRC on a communication procedure. Noteworthy is the re-accreditation of the German Institute for Human Rights under an "A" status in accordance with the Paris Principles in 2008. At the same time, we commend Germany for its regular contribution to the OHCHR budget.

Slovakia would like to present Germany the following recommendations:

1. **to increase protection of women, in particular of those with immigrant background, against violence by, inter alia, strengthening their access nation-wide to counselling and support services,**
2. **to continue addressing gender inequalities on the labour market, in particular with a view to accelerate women's representation at high-ranking, decision making posts,**
3. **and last but not least, to further promote policies and programmes pursued with regards to social integration of the Roma and Sinti communities through promoting their access further to education, labour market, housing and health care services.**

Thank you, Mr. President.