

UPR16/Russian Federation/Statement by Slovakia
29 April 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Russian Federation, led by, and thank it for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Since the first review, Slovakia commends Russia's ratification of CRPD in 2012. At the same time we take a positive note of Russia's timely reporting to treaty bodies under international HR instruments to which it is a party. Noteworthy is also country's regular contribution to the OHCHR budget, including to the Voluntary Funds for Technical Cooperation and for Financial and Technical Assistance for Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

Slovakia would like to present Russia the following recommendations:

1. **To repeal provisions of the legislative regulating NGOs that require the registration of organizations receiving financial support from outside sources as "foreign agents",**
2. **To alleviate legislative and administrative barriers related to the functioning of NGOs and civil society, recognising the legitimacy of their work and contribution for the society,**
3. **Ensure due investigation and prosecution of all alleged attacks against human rights defenders and independent journalists,**
4. **While welcoming the signature of OPSC to CRC, we recommend its ratification, at the same time to sign and ratify the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

Thank you, Mr. President.