

46

M. E. M. KATJAZ KOVAČIČ



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of the Russian Federation for answering some of our advance questions.

We are pleased to note that our 1st cycle recommendation to ratify Protocol No.14 to the European Convention on human rights has been implemented, and that a number of special procedures mandate holders have visited the country. Noting that many other requests for visits remain unanswered, however, we reiterate our previous **recommendation** for a standing invitation, and to respond positively to requests for visits.

We appreciate Russia's efforts to foster a climate of tolerance and respect for diversity, but note that human rights bodies remain concerned about some outstanding issues, such as citizens being insufficiently aware of their rights, restrictions on the work of NGOs and limitations to the freedom of assembly in practice.

We therefore offer the following additional **recommendations** to the Russian Federation:

- to step up efforts to ensure human rights education and training for all,
- to revise laws on public assemblies according to the recommendations by the Venice Commission,
- to put in place comprehensive and evidence-based sexual and reproductive health education programs,
- to repeal existing regional laws banning homosexual propaganda.

Thank you.