

6

SLOVAKIA

UPR16/Turkmenistan/Statement by Slovakia
22 April 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Turkmenistan, 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 Turkmenistan's for its ratification of OP to CEDAW, OP to CRPD as well as the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on stateless persons as the first Central Asian country. We have taken a positive note of the 2010 amendment of the Criminal Code, penalizing trafficking in human beings. Slovakia also acknowledges the ongoing review of the education system and the vocational training sector undertaken with the European Commission's support.

Slovakia would like to present Turkmenistan the following recommendations:

1. To release immediately and to rehabilitate all those imprisoned without credible criminal charges,
2. To reform its relevant legislation to provide for the full enjoyment of the right to the freedom of expression, the right to the freedom of assembly and the right to the freedom of association,
3. As recommended already in the first cycle, to issue a standing invitation for the special procedures, in particular, granting access for the requested visits,
4. In the same vein, to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
5. And last but not least, to sign and ratify the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

Thank you, Mr. President.

