

UPR16/Uzbekistan/Statement by Slovakia
24 April 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, led by H. E: Mr. Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the National Human Rights Center, and thank it for the presentation of the national report and for its participation in the review process.

Since the first review, Slovakia commends Uzbekistan's for the ratification of the OPAC to CRC, OPSC CRC, the second OP to ICCPR as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children, all in 2008. At the same time, we note the strong social policy prioritization by the Government. Slovakia acknowledges the health system reforms that have increased the availability of mother and child health care or the improvement of the school infrastructure. The existence of good inter-ethnic relations in Uzbekistan should also be highlighted in this regard.

Slovakia would like to present Uzbekistan the following recommendations:

1. **to pursue appropriate measures to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment, ensuring that all alleged cases of torture are credibly and independently investigated and prosecuted, providing due redress to victims,**
2. **to ensure that everyone can peacefully exercise his/her right to the freedom of expression in conformity with country's obligations under the ICCPR,**
3. **to recognise the right to conscientious objection, ensuring that that conscientious objectors are not subjected to reprisals,**
4. **to release immediately and rehabilitate all those human rights defenders, journalists, other civil society representatives, imprisoned without credible criminal charges,**
5. **And last but not least, to consider signing and ratifying the new Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.**

Thank you, Mr. President.