



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

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UPR of CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. President,

Slovenia would like to thank the delegation of Central African Republic for the national report, its presentation today and their commitment to the UPR process. We would like to commend Central African Republic for its positive attitude when the country situation was addressed during the last Human Rights Council session. We would also like to welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Slovenia is concerned by the difficult human rights situation in the Central African Republic. We would like to recall the responsibility of the authorities to protect civilian population, especially the most vulnerable such as women, children and elderly people.

We are particularly concerned by the reports on situation of children, who are recruited and used as child soldiers, kidnapped, killed or maimed and victims of sexual violence. Following the recommendations by UNHCR and Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, Slovenia would like to **recommend** to Central African Republic to ensure the immediate release of all children in the context of negotiations with armed groups and facilitate the preparation of concrete and time-bound action plans to halt the recruitment of children by armed groups and Governmental forces. In this regard Slovenia would also like to **recommend** to Central African Republic to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts as soon as possible.

Slovenia is also concerned by the reports on conflict-related sexual violence as well as on sexual violence and gender-based violence that is largely rooted in the customs of the populations. We would like to **recommend** to Central African Republic to put in place effective mechanisms to identify, report and monitor sexual and gender-based violence.

Thank you.