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UPR17/Israel
Statement by Slovakia
29 October 2013

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Israel for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in their country.

We take positive note of developments taken with a view to further promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including the rights of persons with disabilities. In this connection, Slovakia welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and practical steps taken to its implementation at national level.

Slovakia recognizes challenges Israel faces in addressing the situation of illegal migrants. Despite the complexity and high sensitivity of the issue, we encourage the Government of Israel to ensure a genuine balance between human rights of migrants and national interests, also in view of the recent judgment of the High Court of Justice of 16 September 2013.

Respect for freedom of religion or belief is essential to ensure stability and protection of democratic values. Legislative measures related to the freedom of religion, freedom from religion and the freedom to practice religion, including the access to holy places should be followed by their effective application. **We recommend the Government of Israel to take all necessary measures to fight against manifestation of religious intolerance and to thoroughly investigate all cases of religious hatred, including the acts vandalism against religious sites.**

Thank you.