

UPR17/Mexico
Statement by Slovakia
23 October 2013

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Mexico for the comprehensive overview of the human rights situation in their country.

We welcome legislative and institutional amendments adopted since the last UPR cycle and invite Mexico to their full implementation. The task to develop national human rights programme for 2013-2018 serves as a positive example of the Government's committed approach to further promotion and protection of human rights at national level.

While commending steps taken with a view to ensure enhanced protection of human rights defenders and journalists, including establishment of the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders in 2012, the atmosphere of insecurity for human rights defenders persists. **Slovakia recommends Mexico to pursue their efforts to reinforce legislative and institutional guarantees for human rights defenders and journalists exercising their right to freedom of expression. We also recommend strengthening the fight against impunity in this regard.**

With respect to the right to fair trial and due process, the absence of coherent legal framework in the field of criminal law at federal level significantly impedes investigation of human rights violations, including in the field of fight against organized crime. **Slovakia recommends Mexico to pursue constitutional reforms with a view to elaborate coherent criminal legislation at federal level.**

Thank you.