

**UPR17/Nigeria****Statement by Slovakia**

22 October 2013

Mr President,

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

We take note with satisfaction significant progress in terms of improvement the scope of international human rights obligations since the last UPR session.

Slovakia remains concerned with the application of the death penalty, in particular with its imposition on persons below 18 years of age as identified by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. **We recommend Nigeria to ensure that neither the death penalty nor the life sentence is imposed for offences committed by persons under the age of 18.**

While recognizing achievements in the field of education, several areas need to be addressed. As regards accessibility of education, **we recommend Nigeria to implement the Universal Basic Education policy for all children without discrimination, with focus on integration of children with disabilities and equal access for girls in primary and secondary education.** What further measures are envisaged by Nigeria in the field of education in order to promote enrolment of girls to schools?

Breaking through entrenched mind-sets on harmful traditional practices remains a challenge. **We recommend Nigeria to continue awareness-raising campaigns to eradicate such practices and to introduce sex education in the school curricula.**

Thank you.