

Mr President,

Slovakia would like to thank the delegation of Saudi Arabia for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in their country.

We welcome the accession to the two substantive Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Saudi Arabia since the first UPR cycle and encourage them to their effective implementation. Slovakia also takes positive note of the Government's recent accession to the ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work.

We would like to make following recommendations:

The death penalty. We are particularly concerned with high number of executions as well as with reported use of the capital punishment against persons under the age of 18. **Slovakia recommends Saudi Arabia to consider as a first step to establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition.**

Improvement of women's rights. Slovakia recommends Saudi Arabia to take measures to end the practice of guardianship and abolish existing legal provisions that require a guardian's authorization.

Promotion of the ICC. We recommend Saudi Arabia to ratify/accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC, to implement it fully at national level and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.

Thank you.

Martin Kmošena, Councillor