

Check against delivery

UPR18/New Zealand
Statement by Slovakia
27 January 2014

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of New Zealand for the comprehensive overview of human rights in the country focusing on developments since the first UPR cycle. We appreciate the country's clear commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and the role New Zealand plays in the advancement of human rights both at national level and at international fora.

We commend New Zealand's efforts to further strengthen human rights protection of the rights of the child by becoming a State party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and encourage the Government to ensure its effective implementation.

Slovakia would like to offer two recommendations to New Zealand:

Reports on sexual violence against women and domestic violence are a matter of concern. **Slovakia therefore recommends the Government of New Zealand to pursue initiatives aimed at reducing violence against women, with focus on awareness-raising activities in this area.**

As regards the children's rights, we encourage national authorities to take further steps with a view to enhance the institutional protection of the child. In this connection, **Slovakia recommends the Government of New Zealand to consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.