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STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON UPR OF SLOVAKIA

Thank you,

Albania welcomes the delegation of Slovakia to its second UPR and commends your country's track record with regard to HR's protection and promotion.

We note with satisfaction the enhancement as well as the strengthening of Human Rights bodies within public institutions, the drafting of numerous strategies and amendments of existing legislation to better respond to present and future challenges on the matter. In this framework, the amendment of Antidiscrimination Act on April 2013 is key to thoroughly address issues of concern based on racial, gender, ethnic and all other kinds of prejudices.

Albania commends the signing and ratification of an array of international instruments during the period under review, such as the Convention on the "Rights of People with Disabilities" and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol of CESCR; the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and domestic violence etc. We also commend the positive steps of the government towards the ratification of the Third Optional Protocol of CRC on Communication Procedures and look forward to the successful completion of this process.

Albania welcomes the government's measures to adequately respond to minority issues in particular with regard to Roma people. However, we remain concerned that Roma people still face discrimination; suffer social stigmatisation as well as exclusion from public and social life. The low registration and the high school dropout rate of Roma children need to be addresses in an urgent and definite way. In this respect we recommend Slovakia to:

1. Intensify efforts to increase Roma children rate of registration and participation in the educational system, as well as tackle issues of concern which force Roma children to drop out school.

Thank you Mr. President.