

(Check against delivery)

Statement of Bangladesh delegation during the UPR of Slovakia

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Slovakia. We appreciate the comprehensive presentation of the national report. We have noted the efforts for advancement in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country as enumerated in the national report and in the presentation made by the delegation. We appreciate the establishment of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities. We believe that such actions will help the government fight discrimination against minorities including Roma.

However, my delegation shares some concerns expressed by the treaty bodies on persistent inequalities between men and women, and prejudice and discrimination against Roma people. CERD reiterated its concern regarding the continued stigmatization and negative attitudes against Roma. Similarly, the HR Committee was concerned at prevalent stereotypes and widespread exclusion of Roma in education, housing, health and political participation. We are also concerned at racist statements in the discourse of public officials and political parties and reported increase of hate speech in the media and on the Internet, targeting the minorities including Roma as noted by CERD.

We recommend the government of Slovakia-

1. To expedite its implementation of the measures to ensure equality for men and women;
2. To eradicate stereotypes of and widespread abuse against Roma ; and
3. To enhance its efforts to curb hate speech in the media while investigating and appropriately sanctioning the perpetrators for such hate speeches.