

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
18th Session

SLOVAKIA

Mister President,

The Republic of Cyprus wishes to thank [*head of delegation*] and the rest of the members of the Slovak delegation for the presentation of their National Report and cordially welcome them to 18th session of the UPR.

My delegation ardently welcomes the work carried out by Slovakia with regard to the recommendations from its last review cycle, and the fact that the overwhelming majority thereof has been implemented. This, unmistakably, demonstrates Slovakia's untiring commitment to human rights.

Having studied the Slovak National Report, my delegation notes with satisfaction, *inter alia*, the signing and ratification by Slovakia of a number of United Nations human rights instruments during the period under review, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We also wish to highlight the fact that numerous steps have been undertaken by the Slovak Government with the aim of mainstreaming human rights in public life:

In light of the above, we would like to commend the fact that combating trafficking in human beings, including assistance to victims, has been amongst the priorities of the Slovak Ministry of Interior. It is encouraging to notice that, in line with the principle of equality and non-discrimination, victims of human trafficking are provided with services according to their individual needs on an equal basis. It is in this vein, that Cyprus would kindly request Slovakia to give us an overall assessment of the measures taken thus far to combat trafficking in human beings, and also brief us about the specifics of the assistance provided to victims of human trafficking.

Cyprus would like to make the following recommendation:

- That Slovakia continues to strengthen its policy to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking, particularly in providing assistance to victims, regardless of their nationality.

I thank you Mister President.