

UPR18

CZECH REPUBLIC

STATEMENT ON SLOVAKIA

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Slovakia. We appreciate the detailed national report as well as the delegation's response to questions sent in advance.

We commend Slovakia's efforts aimed at improving the access of socially disadvantaged children to education. We realize that achieving it may be very challenging as it requires both addressing the underlying social causes, such as poverty, and full cooperation of all stakeholders, including parents. In this respect, we **recommend** that the Government of Slovakia continue pursuing appropriate and efficient policies aimed at further improving access to education for socially disadvantaged children and consider, if necessary, the adoption of additional measures.

Second, we note that Slovakia has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Therefore, we **recommend** Slovakia consider establishing an independent body with the right to undertake unannounced visits to all places of deprivation of liberty, including police stations and pretrial detention facilities, with a view of an early ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

We wish Slovakia all success in its human rights endeavors and a productive UPR session.

Thank you.