

FINAL

**UPR, The Slovak Republic, February 3 2014
Intervention by Denmark**

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely thanks the delegation from the Slovak Republic for their comprehensive presentation given here today.

We commend the progress the Slovak Republic has made in terms of becoming a State party to a number of human rights treaties during the period under review.

Denmark notes that the Slovak Republic has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) and that there – according to the national report – is no intention to ratify it within the foreseeable future.

The Optional Protocol is a key instrument in the prevention of torture and *Denmark therefore **recommends** that the Government of Slovakia reconsider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.*

Denmark welcomes the work the Slovak Republic has made regarding Roma integration, including the efforts made by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government for Roma Communities. However, Denmark notes with concern continuous reports about societal discrimination, intolerance, stigmatization and prejudice against Roma.

*Denmark therefore **recommends** that the Slovak Republic takes concrete steps to further develop and implement initiatives targeting not only the Roma minority but also the majority population, including children and adults, in order to increase mutual understanding and respect with a view of combating the nourishment of societal discrimination against Roma.*

Thank you, Mr President.