



Universal Periodic Review of the SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 3 February 2014

Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the **Slovak Republic** to its second UPR. We thank Slovakia for their work in preparing the report and its presentation today.

We positively note that since its last review, Slovakia has acceded to several human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol.

Estonia acknowledges efforts by the Government regarding the advancement of the rights of the child. We hope for the adoption and full implementation of the envisaged National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence and the National Action Plan for Children 2013-2017.

Estonia acknowledges Slovakia's efforts in combating discrimination, including the amendment of the Anti-discrimination Act in 2013. We encourage Slovakia to continue its steps to implement the policy programmes for Roma integration adopted during the period under review, and to adopt the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

We further welcome Slovakia's initiatives and encourage it to intensify efforts to prevent and fight gender-based violence, including domestic violence, particularly violence against women. We call on the Government to take steps to support the increase in women's participation in public and private sectors. While acknowledging positive measures taken by the Government to diminish the gender wage-gap, diverse efforts should continue and be strengthened in this regard.

Estonia is glad to note that the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute have been recently approved by the Government and hope for their swift ratification.

Finally, Estonia would like to **recommend to the Government of Slovakia:**

- 1) to take steps for comprehensive prohibition of corporal punishment, including when exercising parental rights;
- 2) to ratify of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

We wish the delegation of the Slovak Republic a successful review meeting.

Thank you!