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Universal Periodic Review 18

UPR of Slovakia

3 February 2014

Intervention by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Slovakia and thanks it for its engagement with the UPR process and presentation today.

Ireland welcomes the developments in the protection of human rights in Slovakia since the last review, particularly the amendment of the Anti-Discrimination Act 2013.

However Ireland is concerned at reports that many Roma children continue to receive education of a lower quality than their non-Roma peers due to policies and practices resulting in de facto segregation. Ireland regrets the rejection of the recommendations made during the first cycle of the UPR to enact and implement new legislation as well as practical measures to end discriminatory practices against Roma in the education system. Ireland therefore **recommends** that Slovakia adopt and implement a sound legal framework and appropriate policies to address this issue, utilizing the definition of segregation provided by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and of the Regional Court in Prešov, including measures to ensure that the Court's definition of ethnic segregation in education is disseminated and promoted to the relevant stakeholders.

Ireland is also concerned that the accreditation of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (which held 'B' status during the previous UPR cycle) has now lapsed. Ireland notes with regret that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights failed to meet the standards required by the Paris Principles. Ireland **recommends** that Slovakia strengthen the independence and mandate of its national human rights institution and provide it with adequate financial and human resources to assist it in meeting the standards required by the Paris Principles.