

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Slovakia

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the Slovakian delegation for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands welcomes the efforts of Slovakia in improving the implementation of international obligations in the area of human rights and the rule of law, as demonstrated by the Criminal code which has been into force now for some years and which contains provisions on racially-motivated crimes, including incitement to racial hatred.

However, in the context of our thematic priorities, the Netherlands remains concerned about the disadvantaged position of women's rights within the National policy, especially with regards to sexual and reproductive health and rights. In addition, we are worried about the high incidence of sexual violence towards women as reported by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Slovakia:

1. To adopt a comprehensive program on sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on international human rights and WHO standards, and to involve women's and reproductive rights non-governmental organizations in the preparation and implementation of this program.
2. To better ensure the effective enforcement of laws against sexual harassment and to adopt additional preventive and protective measures to combat sexual violence in the workplace.

Thank you, Mr. President.