*Check against delivery*

**UPR19/Albania**

**Statement by Slovakia**

28 April 2014

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Albania for the presentation of the national report focusing on main human rights achievements since the first UPR cycle. We commend positive approach of the Albanian authorities in relation to the UPR first cycle recommendations, including accepting those addressed by Slovakia as well as a good level of cooperation they have developed with universal and regional human rights mechanisms.

My country takes note of legislative and policy developments aimed at strengthening human rights protection in a number of areas such as the fight against corruption, prohibition of discrimination on any ground, combating domestic violence, fight against trafficking in human beings and protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups. While the legislative and institutional human rights framework has been generally improved, more focused efforts are required as regards the implementation of existing laws with human rights impact.

The situation of Roma remains a matter of concern. Roma community continues to be at risk of discrimination in the field of employment, housing, education and access to healthcare. Roma children often suffer from discrimination and isolation due to the lack of equal access to education. To achieve tangible results, effective implementation and adequate budgeting of existing policies on Roma should be strengthened.

We would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Albania:

1. **Step up efforts to implement effectively the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion with a view to improve living conditions of Roma community and if necessary, to adopt further measures to improve education of Roma children.**
2. **Continue endeavours aimed at combating domestic violence and ensure that all reports of domestic violence are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with the law.**

Thank you.