

UPR19/Côte d'Ivoire
Statement by Slovakia
29 April 2014

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Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire for the presentation of the national report focusing on main developments since the first UPR cycle. We take positive note of steps taken with a view to strengthen human rights protection at national level, in particular recent ratification of the Rome Statute to the ICC and adoption of the law on the protection of human rights defenders. We invite relevant authorities to their effective implementation.

The process of reconciliation is a prerequisite for stability, political pluralism and development. In this connection, Slovakia welcomes the establishment of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2011 representing all groups of society and encourages the Government to continue the policy of national reconciliation.

The situation of the most vulnerable groups, in particular women and children require effective response by relevant authorities. We express our concern regarding reports on increase in gender-based violence and deep-rooted stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of men and women. Violence and abuse of children remains widespread and should be urgently addressed by national authorities.

We would like to make three recommendations to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire:

1. **Continue the policy of national reconciliation and consider, if necessary, elaboration of further measures with a view to foster the process of reconciliation.**
2. **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**
3. **Accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.**

Thank you.