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UPR19/Portugal
Statement by Slovakia
30 April 2014

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Portugal for the presentation of their national report focusing on main progress since the first UPR cycle.

We appreciate Portugal's clear commitment to further improve the promotion and protection of human rights and the country's engagement in the field of the rights of the child. In this connection Slovakia commends Portugal for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure and the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

Slovakia welcomes the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee which serves as a good example of coordination on human rights issues, including the evaluation of national human rights policies, exchange of information and dialogue between state authorities and civil society. We would like to ask what further human rights indicators are envisaged to be developed by the National Human Rights Committee besides the indicators on the right to education and the right to liberty and security of person?

We appreciate Portugal's efforts to combat discrimination and social exclusion of Roma also through the adoption of the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities. We **recommend that Portugal continues to implement the Strategy and ensures its appropriate and responsible funding.**

Finally, we welcome Portugal's ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and encourage to its effective implementation.

Thank you.