

**UPR20/Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Statement by Slovakia**

5 November 2014

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the presentation of the national report focusing on main achievements since the first UPR cycle. We acknowledge efforts to strengthen human rights protection at national level through undertaking new international human rights obligations and encourage the Government to implement them fully and effectively.

Slovakia hopes that the new Parliament and the Government to be established following the October's elections will take measures to improve the implementation of the existing obligations, including the review of electoral legislation so that it complies with the European Convention on Human Rights.

While taking positive note of the legal framework for the protection of minorities, we call on the Government to further address discrimination and segregation in education and to promote measures aimed at inclusive education. In this regard we encourage the authorities to raise awareness about anti-discrimination legislation among the general public and to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination policy.

With regard to the economic and social rights, the social assistance should be strictly based on individual needs of the most vulnerable groups.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- 1. Provide the Ombudsman Institution with adequate financial and human resources so that it can fulfil its mandate effectively.**
- 2. Step up the process of elaboration of the Action Plan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with clearly defined time-frame.**
- 3. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.