

UPR20/Gambia

Statement by Slovakia

28 October 2014.

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Gambia for the presentation of the national report focusing on main developments in the field of human rights. We take positive note of several measures taken as a follow-up to the first UPR cycle, including the re-establishment a de facto moratorium on the death penalty and adoption of new laws on violence against women and on sexual harassment.

Despite efforts, the progress achieved with regard to conditions in prisons and other places of detention remains unsatisfactory. To implement recommendations from the first UPR cycle effectively, more decisive approach is needed. We would be interested to hear more detailed information on current situation, including challenges in this field as well as on main achievements aimed at improvement of the situation of prisoners and detainees.

Slovakia would like to make following recommendations to the Government of Gambia:

1. **Repeal legislation that does not comply with international human rights law, in particular the amendment to the Information and Communication Act enacted in 2013 and the amendment to Criminal Code enacted in 2013.**
2. **Improve the conditions of detention in all places of detention and ensure that prisoners and detainees have access to medical care, adequate and appropriate food, hygiene and exercise.**
3. **Ratify or accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC and to implement it fully at national level.**

We share concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders with regard to the Information and Communication Act amended in July 2013. In this connection we invite the Government to fully respect human rights standards in the field of the freedom of expression.

Thank you.