

UPR20/Islamic Republic of Iran

Statement by Slovakia

31 October 2014

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Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the presentation of the national report underlining main human rights achievements since the first UPR cycle. We commend the Government for launching the drafting process of the Charter of Citizens's Rights and encourage national authorities to make this process widely inclusive.

Despite efforts further progress is needed to comply with international human rights standards in several thematic areas, such as women's rights, freedom of media and access to information, including access to internet.

We share concerns expressed by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights about discrimination against members of religious communities, in particular the adherents of the Baha'i faith.

Slovakia would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Iran:

1. **Abolish stoning as a form of capital punishment and consider abolishing "apostasy" as a capital offence.**
2. **Take all appropriate measures to end discrimination and intimidation against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities.**

Thank you.

MARTIN KMOŠENA, DTR