

UPR20/Slovenia

Statement by Slovakia

4 November 2014

Mr President,

We would like to express our appreciation to the delegation of Slovenia for the presentation of the national report.

Slovakia commends Slovenia for the efforts undertaken since the first UPR cycle, including the ratification of several international instruments as well as legislative and institutional measures to strengthen human rights protection at national level.

We particularly acknowledge efforts to improve the integration of Roma in the field of employment, housing, health-care and education. We encourage Slovenia to continue the implementation of the concept of modernising Roma settlements and education policy that would ensure proper funding of Roma teaching assistants. In this regard we positively note the amended Act on Placement of Children with Special Needs which redefines the placement procedure in accordance with special educational needs of children.

We further welcome initiatives to combat discrimination against Roma and encourage the Slovenian authorities to prepare the new National Programme of Measures for Roma People for the 2015-2020 period in broad consultation with civil society.

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

1. **Ensure that Roma children have equal opportunities in access to quality education at all levels.**
2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.