URIKA ČAS SVETEK

22

PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA
Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of GUYANA

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Guyana and thanks them for their presentation. We welcome the implementation of two of our first cycle recommendations – namely the ratifications of OP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC and CRPD. We further commend Guyana for the progress achieved towards gender equality, and for its efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

While appreciating that the mandatory death penalty for persons convicted of murder has been removed and that there have been no executions in Guyana in recent years, we continue to call for a complete abolition of the death penalty. We further note with appreciation that corporal punishment in juvenile correctional institutions and institutional residences has been prohibited, but are concerned about reports that it may continue to be practiced in some institutions, and remains legal in schools. We also regret that consensual homosexual relations continue to be criminalized. We therefore reiterate our past recommendations no. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49.

We are also concerned by reported high levels of physical and sexual violence against women and girls, violence against lesbian and bisexual women and transgender persons, the low age of criminal responsibility and the persistence of early marriage.

We offer Guyana the following **recommendations**:

- to ensure de facto criminalization of early marriage and to carry out awareness-raising among women about their rights,
- to heed the call of CEDAW to promote shared parental and caring responsibilities of women and men,
- to increase access to affordable contraceptive methods throughout the country, include comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula, and provide adequate and effective sexual and reproductive health services, including to adolescents,
- to raise the age of criminal responsibility,
- to fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, in order to improve support and access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

Thank you.