



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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UPR of LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and thanks them for their presentation today.

We take note of a number of normative steps to improve the protection of human rights taken by the Lao People's Democratic Republic. We commend the Government's efforts for the promotion of gender equality, development and poverty eradication. We welcome the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. We further welcome the adoption and implementation of the National Action Plan on Anti-Human Trafficking.

However, we remain concerned about reported discrimination experienced by certain ethnic groups and we join CRC's concern that the Lao People's Democratic Republic remains a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of trafficking for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation.

In light of these challenges we would like to recommend to the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic:

1. to fully respect the right to freedom of religion, promotion of tolerance and inter-religious dialogue;
2. to fully implement national legislation on trafficking and address root causes of trafficking;
3. to consider acceding to or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the Death Penalty.

Thank you.