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UPR22/Belarus

Statement by Slovakia

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Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Belarus for the presentation of the national report.

We take note that Belarus became a State party to several Council of Europe instruments, including the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. We invite Belarus to improve protection of other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities through signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

Slovakia shares concerns expressed by several UN treaty bodies, OHCHR and special procedures about the independence and impartiality of justice despite some positive developments in 2014.

Slovakia would like to make the following recommendations to Belarus:

1. **Cooperate fully and effectively with the UN treaty bodies and special procedures and ensure that reports are submitted without delay.**
2. **Ensure the full independence and impartiality of judiciary, including by devolving all the functions in terms of the appointment, suspension and removal of judges, from the executive bodies to the judges' self-government bodies.**
3. **Adopt a comprehensive antidiscrimination law which would prohibit discrimination on any ground and establish mechanisms to ensure the principles of equality and non-discrimination; and remedies at law in cases of discrimination.**

Thank you.