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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 BELARUS

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Belarus for their presentation. We welcome the report that a range of human rights education measures are being carried out, and the stated commitment of Belarus to the international trend towards the gradual abolition of the death penalty.

On the other hand, we remain concerned by continuing human rights violations as noted by the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, in particular regarding continued restrictions on freedom of expression, harassment of journalists and human rights defenders, and the situation of political prisoners. We reiterate the calls for action on the part of Belorussian authorities as contained in Human Rights Council resolutions on Belarus.

We also offer the following **recommendations**:

- to establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition and to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- to improve the overall situation of media freedom;
- to immediately release the remaining political prisoners;
- to ensure that human rights defenders are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association;
- to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus and to heed his recommendations.

Thank you.