

**UPR22/Bulgaria**  
**Statement by Slovakia**  
7 May 2015

Mr President,

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

Slovakia commends Bulgaria 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 coordination at horizontal level among public authorities with regard to the implementation of Bulgaria's international human rights commitments through the establishment of the National Mechanism on Human Rights in 2013.

Slovakia further welcomes efforts in the field of the rights of the child. In this regard we positively note the work on de-institutionalization of children with disabilities as well as steps aimed at more targeted financing of their special needs and improving the level of integrated education.

We recognize measures carried out with regard to the integration of Roma bearing in mind that this is a complex pan-European issue which requires joint action. We encourage Bulgaria to continue the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy in all six priority areas.

Slovakia would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Bulgaria:

- 1. Effectively implement the National Integration Strategy for Individuals Granted International Protection in Bulgaria (2014– 2020) with particular focus on the needs of children.**
- 2. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.