

UPR22/Croatia

Statement by Slovakia

12 May 2015

Mr President,

Slovakia would like to express its appreciation to the delegation of Croatia for the presentation of the national report.

We commend Croatia for the efforts to strengthen legal and institutional framework in the field of human rights at national level since the first UPR cycle, including through the implementation of the National programme for the protection and promotion of human rights 2013 – 2016 and the work of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities.

We recognize the Government's focus on the rights of the child, particularly its efforts to improve access of children with disabilities to quality education at all levels. In this regard we welcome the adoption of the National Strategy on the rights of children 2014–2020 and encourage relevant national authorities to ensure that all children with disabilities and children placed in institutions have equal access to education at all levels.

With regard to the protection of persons with disabilities, Slovakia is pleased to note the efforts which significantly contribute to their better integration.

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

- 1. Continue the implementation of the “Plan on de-institutionalisation and transformation of social welfare homes and other legal persons performing social welfare activities for 2011 - 2016”, with a view to reduce the number of children in institutions.**
- 2. Speed up the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.