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UPR22/Liberia

Statement by Slovakia

4 May 2015

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Liberia for the presentation of the national report focusing on main developments since the first UPR cycle. We take positive note of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012 and encourage the Government to its full implementation and to complete the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

We commend the Government for launching the National Human Rights Action Plan and creating human rights institutions. However, further efforts are needed to address challenges in certain thematic areas such as gender based violence and FGM, protection of human rights defenders and fight against torture, in particular in prisons.

Slovakia shares concerns expressed by several UN treaty bodies regarding cases of corruption, impunity and challenges in the judicial system, including prolonged pre-trial detention and lack of accountability mechanism.

Slovakia would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Liberia:

1. **Investigate and prosecute police misconduct in accordance with international standards; and strengthen institutional capacities to fight against corruption among police officials.**
2. **Take all necessary measures to improve court proceedings to guarantee the right of detainees to a fair trial within a reasonable time.**
3. **Ratify the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

Thank you.