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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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UPR of LIBERIA

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Liberia to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for their presentation today.

Slovenia commends Liberia for adopting the Children's Law and the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Management of Gender-based Violence (2011-2015). However, we remain concerned about the reports on the prevalence of violations of the rights of the child in the country, including violence against children, sexual abuse, ritualistic killings of children and other harmful practices, such as abduction, forced initiation in secret societies, harmful traditional practices such as FGM and early marriages, child labour, trafficking in children, and lengthy pre-trial detention of children. We also note with concern the high rate of sexual and gender-based violence.

Bearing this in mind, we would like to **recommend** to Liberia:

- to ensure that all relevant laws, codified and customary, are brought into compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to ensure strict application of the Children's Law;
- to improve the access to justice for victims, to enhance the capacity of the police to investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence and to enact the legislation, including the Domestic Violence Act.

Thank you.