

Mr. Fedor Rasochaj

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UPR22/Malawi
Statement by Slovakia
5 May 2015

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Malawi for the comprehensive overview of the human rights situation. We take note of the recent adoption of the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Law by the Parliament and expect that it will be signed by the State President soon.

Slovakia takes note of the adoption of the Trafficking in Persons Law and encourages the Government to its full implementation, including providing for adequate assistance, rehabilitation and compensation for victims.

While commending the Government for steps taken to implement UPR recommendations in the field of children's rights, including the adoption of the new National Action Plan for Vulnerable Children, the situation of children remains far from satisfactory. Further progress is needed to address certain thematic areas such as access to education for children with disabilities and accessibility of child justice system.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Malawi:

1. **Speed up the review of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, explicitly criminalize spousal rape and strengthen the mechanisms to protect, compensate, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims.**
2. **Speed up the revision of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi 1995 and ensure harmonisation of laws in line with its international obligations regarding the definition of the child.**
3. **Consider elaboration and adoption of a policy on Child Justice or a comprehensive programme through the National Child Justice Forum.**

Thank you.