

UPR23/Georgia

Statement by Slovakia

10 November 2015

Mr President,

Slovakia commends Georgia for the efforts undertaken since the first UPR cycle, including the ratification of several international instruments and adoption of legislative and institutional measures to strengthen human rights protection at national level, in particular the adoption of the Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan in 2014.

We acknowledge substantial progress in combating discrimination through the recently adopted Anti-discrimination Law and encourage authorities to its full and effective implementation. We also encourage the Government to step up the implementation of the National Action Plan for 2013-2015 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence.

Freedom of media is an indispensable tool for the promotion of democracy and human rights. In this regard we share concerns expressed by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media regarding alleged attempts to silence the country's most popular television channel Rustavi 2. In this connection we call on the Government to ensure pluralism of media in compliance with international standards.

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

- 1. Continue to implement the legislation on domestic violence and ensure training of law enforcement officials to identify all forms of domestic violence.**
- 2. Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.**

Thank you.