



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

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UPR of GEORGIA

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Georgia for their presentation. We note a number of positive developments in the country since its first review, including the adoption of a new Labour Code and steps toward increasing judicial independence. We also welcome legislative progress in the area of discrimination and gender equality, including the adoption of the Act on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and the Action Plan for Combating Domestic Violence and Implementing Measures for the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence for 2013-2015. At the same time, we express concern over the lack of implementation of these measures in practice, including as regards the recurring problem of domestic violence. We furthermore commend Georgia for ratifying the CRPD, but note that the country has yet to ratify its Optional Protocol.

We'd also like to recall that the former High Commissioner Navi Pillay called for more attention to be paid to the situation of human rights in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, on which little information is available, and what is available paints a rather bleak picture.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

- to ratify OP-CRPD;
- to ensure effective implementation of laws on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and gender equality, including by putting in place effective enforcement mechanisms and raising awareness about the provisions of the legislation;
- to take measures to prevent domestic violence, including by raising awareness, encouraging women to report acts of sexual and domestic violence, protecting the victims and ensuring the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.

Thank you.

Advance questions:

- Does Georgia intend to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and if so, in what time-frame?
- We note that Georgia supported our previous recommendation to equalize the length of alternative service for conscientious objectors with the length of military service, but that there had been no action to implement it. What is the action plan and time frame to fully implement the norm that equalizes the length of alternative service for conscientious objectors with the military service?
- While commending Georgia's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, we seek information on what concrete measures have been taken, and to what effect, to address the issue in accordance with the Convention.
- How does Georgia intend to improve the currently limited access to family planning services, and ensure that sexual and reproductive health services, including legal and safe abortion and contraception services and information, are available, accessible and affordable for all women and girls, including those living in rural areas?