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

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**UPR of RWANDA**

Mr. President,

Slovenia recognizes the significant progress achieved in Rwanda in recent years, in particular in education and healthcare, and welcomes the enactment of several new laws aiming to implement some of the past UPR recommendations. We further welcome the ratification of OP-CAT and the issuance of a standing invitation to special procedures.

At the same time, we note that challenges persist, in particular with regard to an enabling environment for civil society, freedom of expression, and attacks on journalists and human rights defenders.

Furthermore, we are concerned that while abortion is one of the lead causes of preventable maternal mortality in Rwanda, legal and administrative barriers to safe abortion appear to be insurmountably high, causing the vast majority of abortions to be performed in high risk settings by untrained individuals. We also share CESCR's concern at the criminalization and severe punishment for abortion, as well as the difficulties faced by some women in accessing family planning services.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

- to simplify procedures for registration/creation of political parties;
- to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission of Rwanda by granting it the power to consider human rights complaints;
- to ensure that no person is detained in unofficial facilities and to investigate and prosecute all cases of enforced disappearances;
- to ensure access to safe abortion services and remove punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion.

Thank you.

**Advance questions:**

- We note that despite the adoption of gender equality legislation and the laudable fact that Rwanda has the highest proportion of women members of parliament in the world, patriarchal stereotypes regarding gender roles continue to hamper gender equality in practice. What is the Government doing to counter attitudes and practices that undermine women's equal rights?
- We understand that the current Family Law stipulates that the husband is the head of the family. Will this be remedied in the new family code that is under preparation?
- What measures is the Government taking to prevent and redress discrimination against the Batwa population?
- How does the Government enforce the prohibition of corporal punishment in view of the "right of correction" granted to parents under the Civil Code?