



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

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UPR on SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Sao Tome and Principe for its presentation. We note a number of positive developments in the country since its first review, such as the revision of the Penal Code in 2012 to explicitly include provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking, the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence, improvements in birth registration, significant progress in reducing infant and under-5 mortality, and an increase in primary school enrolment.

At the same time, we are concerned about reports that a significant number of children remain without birth certificates, about the persistence of harmful traditional practices, an increasing number of children in street situations, the persistence of stigmatisation of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, the prevalence of domestic violence in general and violence against children, the high rate of child abandonment, as well as child labour in the informal, agricultural and domestic work. We are also concerned about reports on alleged excessive use of force by armed forces during the demonstrations of February 2014.

Slovenia would like to make the following **recommendations**:

- to ratify the core international human rights treaties, signed by Sao Tome and Principe, as well as to accede to OP-CRC-SC and OP-CRC-AC;
- to fully enforce the prohibition of child labour in the informal, agricultural and domestic work, including by ensuring the right to education to all children and by defining a list of hazardous work.

Thank you.

Advance questions:

- Slovenia notes as positive the recent increase in primary school enrolment. However, we are concerned that according to some reports only 68 percent of children in the age between 5 and 14 attend school. What measures will the government of Sao Tome and Principe take to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to education by all children, including girls, children living in rural areas and children living in situations of poverty?
- We also note that reportedly only 68 per cent of the population in rural areas have access to safe drinking water and only 35 per cent have adequate sanitation. How do the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe plan to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas?