

Mr. Fedor Kosolov

92

Check against delivery

UPR24/Belgium
Statement by Slovakia
20 January 2016

Mr. President,

Slovakia commends Belgium's excellent human rights record and its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights at national level and at international fora.

We welcome initiatives to strengthen the level of protection of women and children through legislative and policy measures such as integration of gender expressions in the regulations against discrimination and adoption of periodic action plans on the rights of the child.

In view of the current refugee and migrant flows towards Europe, we particularly applaud Government's efforts to increase accommodation facilities for asylum seekers and migrants. In this connection, Slovakia encourages Belgium to continue the implementation of regional governments' strategies for integration of migrants.

Despite some positive developments, prison overcrowding remains challenging. We refer to the CPT's recommendations related, inter-alia, to ill-treatment of prisoners, conditions in prisons, the lack of prison staff and the lack of adequate healthcare. Bearing in mind these concerns, **Slovakia recommends Belgium to step up efforts to improve conditions in prisons, in particular in relation to overcrowding.**

Thank you.