

UPR24/Namibia

Statement by Slovakia

18 January 2016

Mr President,

Slovakia acknowledges Namibia's efforts to improve the level of human rights protection, inter alia through the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2015 – 2019 and encourages to its implementation in all seven thematic areas.

While taking note of endeavours in the administration of justice, the backlog of cases in the criminal justice system remains a challenge. We invite the Government to overcome barriers in access to justice, inter alia by providing adequate budgetary resources to judiciary and improving the system of free legal aid.

Slovakia takes positive note of the Government's focus on achieving gender equality. Violation of women's rights remains, however, widespread. We share concerns expressed by CEDAW regarding the persistence of harmful practices, discriminatory stereotypes and deep-rooted prejudices.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Namibia:

1. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures.**
2. **Take measures to review all relevant legislation with a view to end discrimination against women and girls.**

Thank you.