



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

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of NIGER

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Niger for their presentation and commends the country for the remarkable progress achieved since its last review, in particular its efforts to foster good governance, decrease poverty and to prioritize education as both a human right and a means to development.

We're pleased to note that Niger has put in place a comprehensive human rights action plan, envisioned a citizenship and human rights education programme, established a national human rights institution, strengthened measures to combat harmful practices such as FGM and *Wahaya*, submitted several overdue reports to treaty bodies, and ratified OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC. We therefore consider that our first cycle recommendations have been mostly implemented. We continue to **recommend** the removal of reservations to CEDAW and the formal abolition of the death penalty¹.

In addition, we would like to offer the following **recommendations**:

- to ensure the equal right to quality education for young mothers and married girls;
- to strengthen safety and protection measures for the exploitation of natural resources, in order to rigorously protect the environment and the health and rights of local residents, and in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Thank you.

¹ First cycle recommendation no. 78.12 read: *Step up efforts to improve regular cooperation with treaty bodies; lift reservations to CEDAW and consider ratifying outstanding human rights instruments, including OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC and ICCPR-OP2 (Slovenia).*

Advance questions:

- We regret to note that according to the Special Rapporteur on slavery, Niger has the highest proportion of child marriage in the world. What measures are being taken or are foreseen to eliminate child and forced marriage?
- We welcome the government's commitment to improving gender equality, but note that women continue to be seriously underrepresented in decision-making, have limited access to the labor market, are disadvantaged in terms of land ownership and inheritance, and remain mostly illiterate due to continuing gross gender disparities in access to education. How does the government intend to remedy this situation?
- Please tell us more about the "socioeconomic projects aimed at increasing women's monetary income" mentioned in paragraph 36 of the national report. Could you give some examples of the support available and how these projects have helped increase women's economic independence?
- We are concerned by reports that married girls, pregnant girls and unmarried mothers may be excluded from education. How is the government ensuring the equal right to education for all, irrespective of their marital status or motherhood?
- What is the envisioned time-frame for the adoption of a national strategy to combat gender-based violence?
- What is being done to ensure that uranium mining is not detrimental to the health of the local population, to access to safe drinking water, and does not jeopardize the livelihood of nomadic populations?
- What measures have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on slavery?
- What support and assistance is available to internally displaced persons, including those evacuated from islands in Lake Chad for security reasons?