



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

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UPR of PARAGUAY

Mr. President,

Slovenia thanks the distinguished delegation of Paraguay for their presentation. We welcome the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism in accordance with OP-CAT as an important step to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment. With regard to our first cycle recommendations, we acknowledge the government's efforts to improve the participation of women in political life and in decision-making bodies, as well as measures taken against sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

On the other hand, we share CEDAW's concern about the high rate of teenage pregnancy – especially when resulting from sexual violence, the high maternal mortality rate and the lack of a comprehensive law on sexual and reproductive health and rights. We further note that the Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the high number of human rights defenders that were assaulted, attacked or killed, and echo UNESCO's call on Paraguay to investigate all attacks on journalists and media workers.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

- adopt and implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights standards;
- repeal legislation criminalizing abortion and ensure access to legal and safe abortion for victims of rape and incest, in cases where the life or health of a woman is at risk or when the fetus is not viable.

Thank you.