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**UPR24/Sierra Leone**  
**Statement by Slovakia**  
27 January 2016

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes resuming of the constitutional review process in Sierra Leone launched in 2013 and encourages the Government to ensure that views of the civil society are properly taken into account in this process.

Despite the existing policy framework, discrimination and gender-based against women persists. Slovakia shares concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women about the high rates of violence against women, lengthy trials and the exertion of pressure on victims of violence to settle cases out of court.

While welcoming steps to improve conditions of detention and prisons such as the Prison Strategic Plan, we encourage the Government to take further steps to address prison overcrowding and the lack of independent monitoring mechanism.

Slovakia would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Sierra Leone:

- 1. Finalize the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**
- 2. Implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, rehabilitation and support for victims of violence.**

Thank you.