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UPR24/Somalia
Statement by Slovakia
22 January 2016

Mr. President,

Slovakia takes positive note of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015 as a step to achieve substantive progress in the protection of children's rights in Somalia. There are, however, several issues in this area, such as recruitment and use of children by militia that should be addressed as a matter of priority.

While noting that Somalia has observed a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, we share concerns expressed by the UN experts regarding the recent executions and call on the Government to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Sexual and gender-based violence remains widespread despite the Government's efforts. Slovakia encourages Somalia to establish a mechanism for investigation of such cases and to enhance support services for victims of violence.

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

- 1. Ensure that the Action Plan on ending the recruitment/use of children signed in 2012 is fully implemented.**
- 2. Sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).**
- 3. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.**

Thank you.