

*Check against delivery*

**UPR25/Sudan**

**Statement by Slovakia**

4 May 2016

Mr. President,

We thank Sudan for its latest national report in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the UPR and the Sudanese delegation for its presentation.

We took a positive note that during the first UPR cycle Sudan accepted majority of recommendations submitted. However, many of them remain to be fulfilled.

We would like to propose following recommendations to Sudan:

1. abolish immediately the death penalty,
2. sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,
3. ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
4. ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
5. sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance,
6. reconsider amendments to the constitution, other laws and policies that contradict with Sudan international obligations, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law,
7. carry out prompt, independent and thorough investigation of the allegations of torture and excessive use of force by State officials as well as other human rights violations, including sexual abuses,
8. take effective measures to respect the right to freedom of religion without discrimination.

In addition, we would like to add following comments:

We share concerns on the amendments in the Interim National Constitution and national legal frameworks, which fall far short to recognize civil and political rights. Restrictions on human rights defenders and other members of civil society in Sudan are worrying.

We remain gravely concerned that the death penalty is maintained in Sudan and that this punishment is used routinely. At the same time, the reports of torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force of State officials is also a matter of serious concern. We are equally worried about the reported cases of sexual violence in conflict. Proper investigation of these allegations and holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable must be at the center of any authorities' activities.

We are equally worried about information on arrests and restrictions of freedom of religion or belief of Christian communities. Reports of media restrictions, violations of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association and of peaceful assembly create another layer of concerns.

I thank you.