

UPR25/Tajikistan**Statement by Slovakia**

6 May 2016

Mr. President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Tajikistan for the presentation of the national report and acknowledges the efforts of Tajikistan to improve the level of Human rights protection since the first UPR cycle.

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

- 1. Completely abolish the death penalty.**
- 2. Implement the recommendations of the UN special rapporteur on torture and meaningfully investigate all allegations of torture.**
- 3. Become a State Party of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED).**
- 4. Ensure the freedom of expression, association, assembly and freedom of religion in accordance with international human rights norms.**
- 5. Become a State Party of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (ICC).**
- 6. Become a State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).**
- 7. Become a State Party of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.**

Moreover, we would like to add the following comments:

We take note of the amendments that Tajikistan is preparing in its criminal law in line with the Convention against Torture (CAT), especially those planned in the Criminal Code and in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Despite these efforts, the problems of torture and enforced disappearances remain and allegations of torture should be promptly and impartially investigated.

Although a moratorium on capital punishment is in place, we are concerned about complete abolition of the death penalty.

While noting that a revised Press and Media Act was adopted, some restrictions on media can still be observed. Therefore, we encourage the Government to respect the freedom of information and expression, including on the internet.

Furthermore, restrictions imposed on opposition groups were reported. In this connection we call on the authorities of Tajikistan to allow the peaceful opposition groups to exercise the freedom of assembly, association, expression and religion.

Thank you.