**Intervention of Slovenia**

**Review of South Africa**

**27th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 10 May 2017**

Mr President,

Slovenia welcomes the delegation of South Africa to the UPR Working Group.

We commend the Government of South Africa for progress made since the last review, particularly the enactment of the **South African Human Rights Commission Act**, the **Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act** and the **ratification of the ICESCR**.

We would like to make the following two **recommendations**:

* Ensure in national legislation that the minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both girls and boys and take all necessary measures to prevent and eliminate child sex tourism and exploitation of child labour.
* Revive efforts to develop a national strategic plan on gender-based violence and ensure appropriate resources for its implementation.

We encourage South Africa to proceed with the ratification of **OP** **ICESCR** and the **OP** **CAT**. We deeply regret the decision of the Government to **withdraw from the Rome Statute** of the ICC and urge it to reconsider the decision.

We are concerned about the reports on **discrimination, xenophobia and racism** against certain ethnic groups and non-citizens, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and the rise in hate crimes and hate speech including against the LGBTI persons.

Thank you.