

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**44th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Cameroon**

*Geneva, 14 November 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia commends the delegation of Cameroon for its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
* to take the necessary steps to protect schools, in accordance with the Safe School Declaration.

Slovenia commends for ratification of the CRPD and the OP to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and welcome the functioning of the National Torture Preventive Mechanism.

Slovenia is concerned about the difficult situation of human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society organizations. We call upon Cameroon to provide effective protection to human rights defenders and journalists from attacks, harassment and reprisals, and to ensure accountability for the perpetrators of such acts.

*Schools should remain a safe haven for children, however according to reports by the SR SG CAAC, we encourage Cameroon to strengthen child protection and prevent any military use of schools.*

Thank you.