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**UPR45 – NIGERIA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

23 January 2024

Mr. President,

Slovakia **appreciates** **significant achievements and progress in building its democracy and strengthening its institutions** made by Nigeria since the return to civilian rule in 1999. **However the situation changes only gradually**.

Due to the insecure situation mainly in the north of country many schools are closed because of threat of kidnaping children. Therefore, **Slovakia recommends** to the Nigerian government **to take appropriate actions to ensure access to education** for all children.

Slovakia notes that Nigeria has *de-facto* **moratorium on death penalty** since December 2016. **Slovakia recommends to** **abolish the death penalty *de iure***.

Lastly, last presidential and governorate elections raised **many concerns about the credibility of electoral process and free access to the voting centres**. Slovakia **recommends** to theNigerian authorities to **seriously implement the findings of the international monitors, including EU Electoral Observation Mission**.

Thank you.