*Check against delivery*

**UPR46 – Eritrea (1,10 sec)**

**Statement by Slovakia**

6 May 2024

Mr. Vice-President,

Slovakia **welcomes** Eritrea´s efforts made towards the improvement of access to education, especially in rural and remote areas, **acknowledging** the construction of new schools and expansion of existing ones.

Slovakia **appreciates** efforts to address the gender disparity in education by creating equal educational opportunities and empowering girls' education.

At the same time, Slovakia **notes with** **concern** that very little has changed with respect to the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Slovakia expresses **concern** regarding Eritrea's continued policy of indefinite national service. We **highlight** the serious impact of mandatory national service on women´s rights considering also sexual harassment and other human right violations.

Slovakia offers following **recommendations** to Eritrea:

1. **improve the conditions** pertaining to the national service, especially for women;
2. **limit the length** of mandatory military and national service to a maximum period of 18 months, in accordance with international standards.

We wish Eritrea a successful review.

Thank you.