UPR 46, May 6, 2024

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**SLOVAKIA**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada welcomes Slovakia's engagement in this UPR process and commends Slovakia's decision to continue receiving Ukrainians displaced by the war, as well as for granting them temporary protection status and other benefits during their stay in Slovak territory.

Canada recommends that Slovakia:

1. Strengthen measures to promote freedom of expression while discouraging and addressing hate speech and harassment that threatens journalists, human rights defenders, members of civil society organizations, and other public figures.
2. Prioritize the implementation of plans to eliminate segregation in education and to guarantee quality and inclusive education to all children, including Roma, migrants and refugees, and children with disabilities.

1. Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to guarantee equal rights for LGBTI persons.

**Observations**

Canada is concerned about the recent dismantling of specialized mechanisms against corruption, which were established following recommendations in Slovakia’s last UPR.

Canada also notes reports indicating a withdrawal of support for human rights and civil society organizations, and reminds Slovakia of its own statement during the previous UPR, which highlighted the vital role of these institutions in helping to further improve the protection of human rights.