**Intervention of Slovenia**

**Review of Gabon**

**28th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 7 November 2017**

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the delegation of Gabon to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for their presentation today.

We welcome Gabon's ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We note the adoption of the Children's Code by the Council of Ministers and urge Gabon to continue its adoption process for its full enactment and implementation. However, we regret the reports on the very high dropout rate at the primary and secondary levels of education as well as the low enrolment rates of girls in tertiary level of education.

Slovenia commends Gabon on acting upon implementation of the recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to amend the Act No. 9/2004. We note that the amended bill is in the final stage of its adoption and urge Gabon to successfully conclude the adoption as soon as possible.

We further welcome Gabon's efforts to preserve rainforest and biodiversity through creation of Protected Areas but note with concern the lack of engagement of the local indigenous people in these conservation efforts.

We would therefore like to make the following **recommendations** to the Government of Gabon:

* to address the root causes of its high school dropout rates particular among girls, inter alia by enforcing zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual violence and sexual harassment;
* to ensure effective and systematic application of the principle of prior consultation with indigenous peoples, inter alia in its conservation efforts, including by providing specific regulatory or legislative framework.

Thank you!