*Check against delivery*

**UPR37 – Australia**

**Statement by Slovakia**

20 January 2021

Mme President,

Slovakia wants to congratulate Australia for impressive HR structures and inclusive approach to address the HR issues and reporting. We appreciate the way of cooperation with OHCHR and mandate holders.

We commend Australia for comprehensive work to address the recommendations from previous UPR cycle.

With the aim to complement and strengthen legal order in the area of HR, Slovakia recommends that Australia ratifies IC on enforced disappearance and OP CRC on a communications procedure.

Despite efforts, indigenous people still continue to face numerous inequalities.

Slovakia recommends that Australia considers to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected representative Voice to Parliament.

Slovakia further recommends that Australia continues to implement indigenous education reforms.

Finally, Slovakia recommends that Australia considers to raise minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

We wish Australia a successful review.

I thank you, Mme President.