*Check against delivery*

**UPR37 – Lebanon**

**Statement by Slovakia**

18 January 2021

Vice-President,

Slovakia is fully aware of the difficult situation Lebanon is facing, exacerbated further by COVID-19 pandemics as well as by the explosion on 4 august 2020 at Beirut port.

Slovakia welcomes generosity of Lebanon in receiving Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Slovakia appreciates the efforts of Lebanon to improve the HR situation by adopting numerous laws or action plans seeking to address recommendations from previous UPR cycle.

Despite efforts of the authorities, access to education is limited to children without nationality, funding of public schools is inadequate. Slovakia recommends that Lebanon ratify OP CRC on a communications procedure.

With the aim to combat impunity, Slovakia further recommends that Lebanese authorities conduct prompt and impartial investigation to the excessive use of force during nationwide demonstrations in 2019 as well as hold accountable those responsible for 4 August explosion.

Slovakia equally recommends that government of Lebanon guarantee the freedom of expression and opinion and conduct impartial, transparent and timely investigation into attacks, harassment and intimidation of journalists.

We wish Lebanon a successful review.

I thank you, Vice-President.