

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**38th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Paraguay**

*Geneva, 5 May 2021*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to commend Paraguay for its presentation today and its commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* to repeat the recommendation from the 2nd UPR cycle to repel legislation criminalizing women and girls for having abortion and to take measures to allow legal and safe abortions in cases of rape and incest, in cases where life or health of women and girls is at risk or when the fetus is not viable.
* to ratify the *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Escazú Agreement).

Slovenia welcomes positive steps taken by Paraguay since the 2nd UPR cycle, such as ratification of the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute, adoption of the Law against corporal punishment and the Law on Prevention and Protection of Sexual Abuse. While we welcome the adoption of the Law for the Comprehensive Protection of Women against all Forms of Violence, the overall violence rate remains highs. We encourage Paraguay to strengthen its efforts to reduce the level of violence against women in all settings.

Slovenia remains concerned by the reports that human rights defenders and journalists face insecurity, harassment, attacks and reprisals, some of the recent cases are even linked to COVID-19 state of emergency and would like to call on Paraguay to step up its efforts to establish national protection mechanism.

Thank you.