

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**39th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Tajikistan**

*Geneva, 4 November 2021*

Madame President,

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

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

* to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Slovenia commends Tajikistan for signing the CRPD and encourages Tajikistan to ratify the Convention at its earliest convenience. We welcome Tajikistan’s willingness to regulate procedures on domestic violence and early marriages, as crisis centers reported an increase in cases of gender-based and domestic violence during the Covid19.

Slovenia took note that some human rights areas remains problematic, for instance the shrinking space for the exercise of freedom of association, political participation and freedom of expression. In other areas, the political leadership shows some will for gradual change, for example in the area of reform of the penal system, in the area of prevention of torture and ill-treatment, as well as in the area of women’s rights.

Thank you.