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**UPR39 – TAJIKISTAN**

**Statement by Slovakia**

4 November 2021

President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

Slovakia notices several modifications of the Criminal Code since last UPR dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism. Unfortunately, despite previous announcements no positive changes with regard to solving problems of torture and enforced disappearance were adopted.

While moratorium on capital punishment is observed since 2004, we recommend complete abolition of the death penalty.

We note that a revised Press and Media Act is in place, however, restrictions on media continue to occur.

Furthermore, restrictions are imposed also on peaceful opposition groups to exercise the freedom of assembly, association, expression and religion.

We would like to offer following **recommendations** to Tajikistan for further consideration:

1. Ensure the freedom of expression, freedom of the media, including on the internet in accordance with international human rights norms.
2. Completely abolish the death penalty.
3. Bring the criminal legislation in line with the provisions of Convention against Torture.
4. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

We wish Tajikistan a successful review.

I thank you, President.