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**UPR40 – SOUTH SUDAN**

**Statement by Slovakia**

31 January 2022

President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of South Sudan for today´s presentation. We appreciate the presentation of mid-term UPR report in 2019.

We note the cooperation of the government with the OHCHR, with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan as well as treaty bodies. However, further effort is needed in acceding to core UN human rights treaties.

Slovakia deeply regrets that children continue to suffer on various fronts: they are subject to abductions, military engagement. On the other hand, they are lacking access to education or health care. In this respect, the accession of South Sudan to two optional protocols to the CRC is a positive sign.

We note with concern the reported instances of censorship, harassment and arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists by the National Security Service.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to South Sudan:

1. take necessary steps to eradicate corruption,
2. investigate enforced disappearances and bring perpetrators to justice,
3. take measures to prevent acts aimed at intimidating journalists and interfering with freedom of expression,
4. ensure access to safe and quality education for all children,
5. ratify the OP CRC on a communication procedure.

We wish South Sudan a successful review.

Thank you, President.