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**UPR40 – VENEZUELA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

25 January 2022

President,

We note with concern the human rights situation in Venezuela. It has resulted in the second largest migration and refugee crisis in the world.

Slovakia is gravely concerned by continuous repression against the opposition and independent media amounting to harassment, detentions, prosecutions.

Slovakia recommends the following:

1. engage with the UN human rights system, by submitting overdue reports to the treaty bodies and by cooperating with OHCHR and the mechanisms of the HRC,
2. guarantee freedom of expression and support a plural and safe communication environment,
3. modify *the Law against Hatred, for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance* so that it cannot be used against journalists or human rights defenders,
4. ratify OP CRC on a communications procedure,
5. ratify CED convention.

We wish Venezuela a successful review.

Thank you, President.