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**UPR40 – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

28 January 2022

President,

Slovakia welcomes a number of positive developments in the Republic of Moldova since the last UPR review.

We note with appreciation in particular the adoption of two strategic documents – Human Rights Action Plan (*2018-2022*) and Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy (*2021-2024*); as well as continuous attention paid to strengthening of the institution of Ombudsman (*People´s Advocate*).

Slovakia recognises also the ongoing positive cooperation with OHCHR, treaty bodies and special procedures of the HRC.

While welcoming new legal guarantees for the freedom of expression we note significant decrease of Moldova´s ranking in the World Press Freedom Index. We deplore the fact that independent journalists face attacks, intimidation or intense legal pressure.

Slovakia will closely follow the ongoing process of adoption and subsequently the implementation of strategic document for justice sector aiming to combat the scourge of high-level corruption and organised crime.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to the Republic of Moldova:

1. strengthen its efforts in implementing measures to combat corruption, especially in justice sector,
2. guarantee an environment that favours the activities of journalists and the freedom and pluralism of the media,
3. ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,
4. ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We wish the Republic of Moldova a successful review.

Thank you, President.