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**UPR41 – Tunisia**

**Statement by Slovakia**

8 November 2022

President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Tunisia and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We note with satisfaction the openness of Tunisia to the cooperation with the UN human rights system. We value numerous visits of the special procedures as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights since the last review.

We commend the ratification of the OPIC and hope for its smooth implementation.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned by the fact, that the new Constitution, confirmed by the referendum, weakens the system of checks and balances, undermines judicial independence and falls short of international human rights standards.

We are equally concerned by the illegal use of force, arrests, detention, prosecution and imprisonment of journalists.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Tunisia for further consideration:

1. Halt the practice of the prosecution of civilians before the military courts;
2. Intensify the efforts to combat corruption including through better protection of whistle-blowers;
3. Reform the legal framework that would guarantee the freedom of expression and the independence of the media;

We wish Tunisia a successful review.

I thank you, President.