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**UPR41 – SOUTH AFRICA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

16 November 2022

President,

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

We commend the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Allegations of State Capture. We consider important that South Africa would continue in improving capacity of state institutions to investigate and prosecute corruption, fraud and state capture.

We encourage South Africa to step up its efforts in tackling gender-based violence as well as in combating racial discrimination and xenophobia.

The difficult situation of both human rights defenders and whistle-blowers remains increasingly worrying. We are aware of the concerns raised by civil society in this regard which signal a trend of narrowing space for civil society in South Africa.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to South Africa for further consideration:

1. ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure,
2. ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We wish South Africa a successful review.

Thank you, President.