

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**42nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Guatemala**

*Geneva, 25 January 2023*

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Guatemala for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

- To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP 2).

Slovenia commends Guatemala for several positive developments in the recent years. One of them is decreasing the illiteracy rate which will contribute to a better standard of living of the Guatemalan people.

Slovenia is concerned about the rate of gender-based violence against women and children in Guatemala. Systemic impunity, and the failure to provide reparation to victims prevails in high number of cases of violence against women and children. We are also concerned about the persistence of child, early and forced marriage and would welcome information on what steps has the Government undertaken to reduce the level of gender-based violence against women and children.

Thank you.