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**UPR42 – REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

26 January 2023

President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of the Republic of Korea for the presentation of its national report pointing at various legislative and policy steps to implement UPR recommendations.

Slovakia welcomes also the close cooperation with and support for the OHCHR and UN human rights system. We invite the government to continue the process of acceding to UN human rights treaties.

While we commend the recent adoption of conscientious objection legislation, we regret that the conditions of alternative military service, such as its length, cannot be consider proportionate.

Slovakia is pleased that no capital punishment has been implemented since last millennium. We also commend the government for its support to recent UN resolutions on this topic.

Slovakia offers 3 recommendations to the Republic of Korea for consideration:

1/ Take steps towards the legal abolition of the death penalty, while commuting the existing sentences to life imprisonment terms;

2/ Take steps to implement the alternative service for conscientious objectors to military service in line with international standards;

3/ Consider the ratification of the Third Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OPIC).

We wish the Republic of Korea a successful review.

Thank you.