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**UPR42 – Japan**

**Statement by Slovakia**

31 January 2023

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Japan to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend legislative and policy measures taken by Japan to strengthen children’s rights such as the amendment to the Act for Implementation of Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. This is an important step to make return procedures more effective.

The recent ratification of the ILO Convention No. 105 by Japan confirms its reinforced commitment to fight against forced labour. We encourage national authorities to implement it at national level.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Japan for further consideration:

1. To introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as the first step to its abolition;
2. To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure;
3. To consider ratifying The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

I thank you, Mr President.