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**UPR43 – BURUNDI**

**Statement by Slovakia**

4 May 2023

Mr. President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Burundi for the presentation of its national report.

We acknowledge efforts by the Government to improve human rights situation across the country, including the adoption of laws regulating the press. Yet, violations of freedom of expression and media freedom such as intimidation and physical attacks against journalists continue.

As regards the right to education, Slovakia wishes to recognize the adoption of measures to allow free elementary education and school kits for kids and students from poor families. We encourage the authorities to keep on these efforts.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Burundi for further consideration:

1/ Put an end to measures that intimidate journalists and human rights defenders.

2/ Establish protection mechanism for human rights defenders, lift measures that obstruct their work and overturn sentences imposed on human rights defenders who are victims of judicial harassment.

I thank you, President.