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**UPR43 – SERBIA**

**Statement by Slovakia**

10 May 2023

Mr President,

Slovakia commends Serbia for the efforts undertaken to protect and promote human rights since its last review. The amendments to the constitution in 2022 strengthened the independence of the judiciary and enhanced the transparency and effectiveness of rule of law institutions. It is essential to ensure that this new legislation is functionally executed in practice - providing equal access to justice for everyone, as well as effective fight against corruption and organized crime.

Slovakia acknowledges the efforts of the Serbian Government to improve the media environment and to increase protection and safety of journalists. It is important to continue in these efforts.

We also commend the adoption of the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance by Serbia in 2020.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Serbia for further consideration:

1. To conduct prompt and impartial investigations and prosecute all threats to journalists and human rights defenders and cases of hate speech against them;
2. To continue in its effort to provide protection to people fleeing from Ukraine due to the Russian war of aggression, including the full respect of human rights.

We wish Serbia a successful review.

I thank you, President.