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**UPR29 – Israel**

**Statement by Slovakia**

23 January 2018

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Israel and thanks it for the presentation of its national report and for its participation in the review process.

Slovakia appreciates efforts of Israel to address human rights related issues and to improve its human rights legislative framework. We commend Israel for its continued engagement in the HRC and with the Treaty bodies.

We value efforts and achievements of Israel in the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities.

We also note with appreciation the efforts of Israel to fight racial discrimination, including launching a public campaign aimed at education of the public on racism-related criminal offences.

Slovakia recognizes several programs in Israel that have been designed to benefit Israel’s minorities and we recommend that Israel support them with adequate resources and make every effort towards their full implementation.

Furthermore, Slovakia recommends that Israel take necessary steps towards harmonizing its religious laws governing marriage and divorce with the provisions of the CEDAW and amend its legislation to allow for civil marriages without discrimination on the ground of religious or belief.

We wish Israel a successful review.

I thank you.