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**UPR29 – Serbia**

**Statement by Slovakia**

24 January 2018

Mr. President,

We commend Serbia for the efforts undertaken with regards to the realization of human rights since its last review. In particular, we praise the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments. We also welcome the adoption in April 2016 of the Action Plan concerning judiciary and fundamental rights aimed at the protection and improvement of human rights.

Slovakia acknowledges the agreement signed in December 2016 between respective Serbian authorities and number of journalists’ associations with the objective to increase the safety of journalists. However, we note with concern the reports of intimidation, attacks and death threats aimed at journalists and other media workers that, unfortunately, have increased recently. We recommend that Serbia conduct prompt and impartial investigations of all allegations of crimes against journalists and media and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Furthermore, we recognize the results achieved by Serbia in its search operations for missing persons that perished in the armed conflicts in the 1990s. We recommend that Serbia consider introducing the legislative amendments necessary to broaden the definition of victims of enforced disappearance to include the relatives of a disappeared person.

My country also appreciates the progress made by Serbia in field of the rights of the child. In this regard, we recommend that Serbia ensure swift and smooth adoption of the draft bill on children’s ombudsperson. In the same spirit, we recommend that Serbia ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We wish Serbia a successful review.

Thank you.