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**UPR32 – New Zealand**

**Statement by Slovakia**

21 January 2019

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report and the participation in the review process.

We commend the efforts made by the Government of New Zealand to promote and enhance the protection of human rights both on the national and international level. Also, we acknowledge the active engagement of the Government with the OHCHR and other UN bodies and agencies.

Concretely, we appreciate the policies aimed at improving the living conditions of children and women. Therefore, we welcome the recent adoption of the Child Poverty Reduction Bill and the introduction of the Government-sponsored Equal Pay Amendment Bill to the Parliament.

Emphasizing the need for more robust protection of children’s rights on the international level, we recommend that New Zealand become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

We wish New Zealand a successful review.

I thank you, Mr. President.