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**UPR32 – Uruguay**

**Statement by Slovakia**

23 January 2019

Mr. Vice-President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Uruguay to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We praise the Government of Uruguay for its efforts and steps taken to address human rights related issues and to improve its framework for further strengthening human rights protection in the country. Slovakia welcomes the accreditation of the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman’s Office fully with the Paris Principles and recommend that the Government of Uruguay continue allocating sufficient resources to ensure that Office can operate independently and fulfill its mandate.

Furthermore, Slovakia highly values the ratification by Uruguay of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We also appreciate efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

However, reports on sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including in the home, and the lack of effective measures to prevent these violations and abuses is a matter of concern. We recommend that Uruguay bring its criminal legislation into compliance with the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. We also recommend that the Government step up its efforts to eliminate the child labour and adopt recovery and social integration measures for children in conflict with the law.

We wish Uruguay a successful review.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President.