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**UPR32 – Eritrea**

**Statement by Slovakia**

28 January 2018

Mr. President,

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

We note with appreciation the adoption of the National Policy on Children (2014) and encourage Eritrea to develop a strategy for its implementation as well as to allocate sufficient resources to the entities designated to coordinate the implementation of the CRC. We recommend that Eritrea ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We are concerned by the large-scale restrictions on fundamental human rights and freedoms in the country are matter of serious concern. Notably, we are disturbed by the indefinite national service that encroaches on personal and economic liberty of the citizens of Eritrea. Therefore, we recommend that the Government limit the duration of compulsory national service to 18 months, as stipulated in the law.

Furthermore, reports on persistent, widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population as well as practices of the official authorities aimed at harassing and intimidating journalists, human rights defenders and members of unrecognized religious groups are matter of concern. For this reason, we recommend that Eritrea ensure accountability for past and persistent human rights violations and crimes and release without delay all persons detained without trial and investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities and by the law enforcement agencies.

We wish Eritrea a successful review.

I thank you, Mr. President.