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**UPR29 – Albania**

**Statement by Slovakia**

6 May 2019

Mr. President,

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

Albania has made a significant progress in both monitoring and implementing human rights since its last review. Slovakia praises Albania for taking a number of positive steps to address human rights related issues and to improve further its human rights legislative framework.

We commend the approval of constitutional amendments in July 2016 that have paved the way to a legal reform, aimed at bringing national human rights guarantees into full compliance with international standards.

The People’s Advocate active promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups through an increasing number of special reports and recommendations are to be appreciated. We also note positive steps in connection to posts for the commissioner for children’s rights and for the prevention of torture as well as the election of a new Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.

Slovakia particularly appreciates the adoption of a law on the protection of the rights of the child in 2017 as well as the National Agenda for Children’s Rights 2017-2020. At the same time, we note reports that children in Albania continue to be exposed to violence at home, in institutions, at school, in the community and on the Internet. In this regard, Slovakia recommends that Albania continue efforts towards the implementation of its legal and policy framework on child protection. We also recommend that Albania continues its awareness raising programmes and campaigns against violence in all environments and the promotion of good practices of family conflict resolution and positive parenting.

Furthermore, we recommend that Albania strictly prohibit child marriage and criminalize violations of that prohibition and increase its efforts to raise awareness of child marriage.

We wish Albania a successful review.

I thank you.