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**UPR33 – Qatar**

**Statement by Slovakia**

15 May 2019

Mr. President,

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

We appreciate efforts of the Government of Qatar to achieve progress in the human rights situation in the country. We welcome its accession to the ICCPR and ICESCR and encourage the Government to lift the reservations lodged on acceding to these Covenants.

Furthermore, we note with appreciation efforts to improve the quality, relevance and outcomes of education. We encourage the Government to develop its legislative framework on education in order to guarantee the right to education for all and take effective measures to promote women’s and girl’s access to all areas of study. We are ready to cooperate with Qatar and to continue a dialogue with the aim of strengthening civil and political rights, women ´s rights and functioning of judiciary system.

Slovakia offers following recommendations to Qatar:

1. create an environment conducive for freedom of expression and free, independent, plural and diverse media, online as well as offline;
2. reform laws that discriminate against women and girls to ensure that all legislation and policies are fully in line with international human rights law and standards and take effective measures to counter violence against women;
3. ratify the CED, Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We wish Qatar a successful review.

I thank you, Mr. President.