**Statement by**

**the Republic of Slovenia**

**at the**

**35rd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Lesotho**

Geneva, 22 January 2020

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ms President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Lesotho for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

* to enact as soon as possible the Children's Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill 2019.

We would like to commend Lesotho for issuing a standing invitation to special procedures. Slovenia also notes with appreciation the efforts made by Lesotho to address discrimination against women and girls, gender-based violence and child marriage as well as to improve the access of women and youth to sexual and reproductive health services. We would like to commend Lesotho for ratifying the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons as well as encourage it to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities as well as the Frist and Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

However, Slovenia is concerned about the reports on persistence of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and of child marriage, which is mostly encountered by girls, as well as trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. We are also concerned by the reports on violence, exploitation and abuse against children, including corporal punishment, child labour and sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Advance question:**

- In the National Report Lesotho listed measures taken by the Ministry of Health to protect different groups, including LGBTI, from discrimination and to guarantee them adequate access to HIV/AIDS care and other related services. We would appreciate information on other measures taken to implement constitutional, legal and policy reforms to promote, protect the human rights of persons irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity?