Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

35th Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Sweden

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the distinguished delegation of Sweden for the commitment to the UPR and their presentations today.

We would like to recommend to the Government of Sweden:

* to establish an independant national human rights institution with a broad human rights mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, as announced in the Statement of Government Policy on 10 September 2019.
* to introduce alternative measures to custody and pre-trial detention of children as well as a total ban on solitary confinement of children in remand prisons in all circumstances;
* to enhance measures to fully protect children from all forms of violence and to introduce child-abuse as a specific crime in the Penal Code that includes all forms of violence against children in line with the CRC.

Slovenia commends Sweden's commitment to the promotion of human rights and its support for the international human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the continuous positive developments in approving legislation and adopting strategic documents for gender equality, protection of women and girls from violence and sexual abuse as well as the child protection system. Slovenia also commend Sweden on the high rate of representation of women in political and public life as well as for its feminist foreign policy.

However, concerns remain about the persistance of gender-based violence as well as underreporting of such crimes, including rape and about low rates of their prosecution and conviction.

Furthermore, we are concerned by the reports about various forms of violence against children in different settings (home, community and school) as well as the difficulties in addressing these issues in a child-appropriate manner.

Thank you.

**Advance question**:

1. How does the Swedish Government address the need to ensure the highest level of education possible for children with disabilities?