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**UPR36 – Bulgaria**

Statement by Slovakia

6 November 2020

Madam President,

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

We recognize efforts made by Bulgaria to address human rights related issues and praise it for numerous positive steps taken since its last UPR.

Slovakia commends Bulgaria for progress it has achieved in child-care system reform in last decade. We encourage Bulgaria to strengthen further family support services, reinforce capacity of the social services and to address challenges related to the prevention of child abandonment and family separations.

In order to improve its legislative framework, Slovakia *recommends* that Bulgaria consider ratifying those international human rights treaties it had not yet ratified, in particular the CED, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure, and accelerate ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRPD.

We note reports of increased incidents of hate speech and hate crime. Slovakia, therefore, *recommends* that Bulgaria amend national legislation related to elimination of racial discrimination and hate speech in line with international standards and bring perpetrators to justice. We also *recommend* raising public awareness on respect for diversity.

We wish Bulgaria successful implementation of recommendations.

I thank you Madam President.