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**UPR36 – Honduras**

Statement by Slovakia

5 November 2020

Mr. Vice-President,

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

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

Slovakia welcomes the ratification by Honduras of all the UN core human rights instruments.

We also commend Honduras for the establishment in 2017 of the Ministry of Human Rights. We *recommend* that the Government allocate adequate resources, both financial and human, for the Ministry to carry out its mandate.

Slovakia note with appreciation Honduras’ effort to improve press freedom and the protection of human rights defenders. However, we have also noted reports of cases of intimidation and reprisals against persons cooperating with the United Nations human rights system. We *recommend* taking all necessary measures to preserve a free, safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, journalists and media workers and ensure that they can do their work without facing intimidation or harassment. The National Protection Mechanism should be fully functional and trustworthy in order to provide protection to CSOs and HRDs.

Furthermore, Slovakia *recommends* that Honduras ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.

We wish Honduras a successful implementation of recommendations.

I thank you Mr. Vice-President.