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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Slovakia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

The opinion of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the recommendations addressed within the third cycle of the UPR (Geneva, 28 January 2019)

1. This position was approved by the Resolution of the Government of Slovak Republic No. 252 of 29 May 2019.

2. Slovakia welcomes recommendations addressed during the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 28 January 2019.

3. Slovak Republic supports one hundred and seventy six (176) recommendations, specifically numbers 121.1–121.3, 121.11–121.35, 121.37–121.70, 121.72–121.78, 121.80–121.95, 121.97–121.108, 121.110–121.141, 121.148–121.180 and 121.182–121.195.

4. Slovak Republic partially supports nine (9) recommendations, specifically numbers 121.9, 121.36, 121.79, 121.109, 121.144–121.147 and 121.181 with the following reasoning:

(a) Slovak Republic supports recommendation 121.9 in the part “and take further steps to prevent violence against women as well as to promote gender equality”.

As the supreme legislative body in Slovak Republic, the National Council called on the Government of Slovak Republic in its Resolution 1697 of 29 March 2019 to refrain from the process moving towards ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Slovak Republic and has carried out all acts related to notifying the Council of Europe that Slovak Republic does not intend to become a party to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Slovakia therefore notes the part of recommendation 121.9 stating “Reinitiate the ratification process of the Istanbul Convention”.

(b) Slovak Republic supports recommendation 121.36 in the part “Integrate the United Nations SDG number five on gender equality in the National Strategy and National Investment Plan for 2018 - 2030” and note the part “and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence” with reference to Resolution 1697 of 29 March 2019 (paragraph 4(a) part two).

(c) Slovak Republic partially supports recommendation 121.79 with reference to the fact that the merits of the recommendation have been met in 2011 by the establishment of an agency. Within this structure was created a national anti-corruption body as well as the creation of the Special Prosecutor's Office under the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic and the Specialised Criminal Court. Slovakia also emphasise that an anti-corruption coordinator was established in every governmental body in 2019 within the specific conditions of the given department.

(d) Slovak Republic partially supports recommendation 121.109 with reference to the fact that since 2003 national programs to combat trafficking in human beings have been adopted by Slovak executive. Slovak Republic is currently implementing the 2019–2023 action plan within National Program to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings focused on this specific issue.

(e) Slovak Republic supports in part recommendation 121.144. Under Slovak legislation in force, costs related to sexual and reproductive health and modern contraceptive methods are not universally covered under public health insurance. Costs related to reproductive health (artificial insemination) are partly covered by public health insurance.

(f) Slovak Republic supports in part recommendations 121.145–121.147. Slovak legislation in force dictates that written informed consent after prior instruction is a requirement to perform abortions.

(g) Slovak Republic supports in part recommendation 121.181 with reference to the fact that there is a special attention given to questions of healthcare and approach to sexual and reproductive health by the competent authorities in Slovak Republic, including the creation of special mechanisms for improving attitude of the staff.

5. Slovak Republic notes ten (10) recommendations, specifically numbers 121.4, 121.5, 121.6–121.8, 121.10, 121.71, 121.96, 121.142 and 121.143 with the following reasoning:

(a) Slovak Republic notes recommendations 121.4 and 121.5 due to the reason of incompatibility between the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and Slovak legislation in force. Slovak Republic have not ratified this international convention and given that fact that the convention does not differentiate the basis between legal and illegal migration, it is not expected that we will ratify the convention.

(b) Slovak Republic notes recommendations 121.6–121.8 and 121.10 with reference to the National Council Resolution 1697 of 29 March 2019 (paragraph 4(a) part two).

(c) Slovak Republic notes recommendation 121.71 with reference to Article 41 (1) of the Slovak Constitution based on which marriage is a unique bond between man and woman. We protect marriage and promotes its righteousness. Marriage, parenthood and family have legal protection.

(d) Slovak Republic notes recommendation 121.96 given that several legal effective steps have been taken with respect to the question of an independent and impartial oversight authority over the police force. The Inspection Service Office of the Slovak Republic was established on 1 February 2019.

(e) Slovak Republic notes recommendations 121.142 and 121.143 as sexual and reproductive health programs are fully resolved through the Strategy for specialized paediatrics, paediatric gynaecology and gynaecology-obstetrics, as well as valid legislation in force.

6. Slovak Republic presents an interpretative clause to the text of the recommendations as a whole:

In all provisions and in relation to all recommendations where the term "gender equality" is mentioned, Slovak Republic operates by using the terminology introduced in the National Strategy of Gender Equality in Slovakia, according to which "gender equality" (gender equality + gender equity) is synonymous with the equality of men and women, with emphasis on the elimination of existing inequalities as the goal of equality in the social status of men and women".

7. Slovak Republic likewise declares that the term "criteria" in recommendation 186 is interpreted as meaning "barriers".

8. Slovak Republic will endeavour to submit a voluntary interim progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review by the end of 2021.