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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Slovakia

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Slovakia was held at the 11th meeting, on 28 January 2019. The delegation of Slovakia was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. František Ružička. At its 17th meeting, held on 31 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Slovakia.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Slovakia: Afghanistan, Cameroon and Chile.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Slovakia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/SVK/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/SVK/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/SVK/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belarus, Belgium, Germany, Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow up, Sweden, Slovenia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Slovakia through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation stated that Slovakia remained committed to the universal periodic review mechanism and the implementation of the recommendations put forward during its review. The Government had been taking measures to ensure full implementation of all human rights obligations nationwide. Civil society, national human rights institutions and other partners had played an indispensable role in the efforts of the Government to advance further the protection of human rights and to implement successfully the recommendations from the universal periodic review.
6. The Constitution and the Constitutional Act laid down the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. Slovakia had ratified core international human rights treaties and regional human rights instruments of the Council of Europe. The international human rights treaties had direct application in the national legal system and prevailed over national law.
7. The Government drafted and adopted the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in 2015 through the participatory and inclusive process. The Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality, an advisory body of the Government, had played a key role in this process.
8. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council about the developments related to the follow up of the previous review. After signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention

against Torture, the Government had been drafting relevant legislative changes in preparation of the ratification of the Optional Protocol.

9. The authorities expected to have an amendment to the Act on Slovak National Centre for Human Rights adopted in the nearest future. The amendment included changes to improve the selection process of the Director of the Centre and strengthen the mandate and the independence of the Centre so it meets the Paris Principles.

10. The new Act on victims of crime, which entered into force in 2018, had included the provision on assistance to victims, including psychological support and legal assistance and measures to avoid re-victimization during the criminal proceedings. The Act gave a special attention to child-victims by including stronger mechanism to protect the rights and interests of the child during the interrogation of child-victims or child witnesses.

11. The Government had started the provision of free meals in kindergartens and primary schools in 2019, which could have a positive impact on attendance of children from families in disadvantage situation. The Government had taken measures to make the preschool education mandatory with an aim to improve the school attendance of Roma children.

12. In 2018, the Government had started implementing a plan to employ health education assistances for over 300 villages during two-year period in order to improve access to health services of the Roma in less developed parts of the country. Those assistants were all Roma women who had received continuous education in healthcare assistance and reproductive health.

13. The existing legislation allowed the application of the conscientious objection by healthcare professionals regarding the protection of life of an unborn. The National Programme for Care of Children and Youth included reproductive health and rights to ensure quality care for pregnant women and newborns and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates.

14. In the area of gender equality, the Government had taken measures to ensure necessary conditions for reconciling family life and work and reducing the gender pay gap. The number of fathers taking paid paternity leave for seven months had increased, reaching 17 percent of fathers in 2018. Women Ministers constituted a third of the Government.

15. The delegations highlighted also measures taken to protect women and children from violence. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family run a free hot line for women and provided services for victims of domestic violence, including by supporting various projects implemented by nongovernmental organisations. The use of such services by women and the rate of reporting and prosecution of domestic violence cases had increased. The Government had carried out public awareness campaigns to prevent violence against children and reforms to improve social protection system.

16. The system of support for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities was in place to preserve and protect identity and cultures of minorities. The Act on the Fund for the Promotion of the Culture of Persons belonging to National Minorities, which came into effect in 2017, aimed to transform the previous state system with a new one and provide effective support to cultural and arts initiatives of all persons belonging to national minorities.

17. The Government approved a national program on education and its implementation plan in 2018 to improve lifelong education and integration and inclusion of children of the Roma and from socially disadvantages families and ensure that education system was interlinked with the needs of national economy and labor market.

18. Housing remained a challenge, not only for the Roma but also for low-income households. The State Housing Policy Concept 2020 set an objective to make housing affordable.

19. The authorities amended the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes in 2017 to effectively prosecute all forms of criminal conduct with elements of extremism. The Special Criminal Court was authorized to deal with criminal offences of extremism. The legal protection against extremism, including defamation of a nation and race and incitement to violence based on race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion had been improved.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 80 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Uruguay commended Slovakia for the progress made in human rights. It noted with satisfaction the adoption of an Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups for the 2016–2020.

22. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela underlined the efforts of Slovakia in improving its legal system to combat racism, discrimination, extremism and other forms of intolerance. It noted the adoption of the National Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2015–2018.

23. Viet Nam took note of the administrative and legislative measures that Slovakia had taken to promote and protect human rights, but noted that there still was room for improvement.

24. Afghanistan commended Slovakia for the progress made in ensuring inclusive education. It welcomed the adoption of action plans on anti-discrimination and on the protection of the rights of members of minorities. It noted changes made to the criminal codes regarding racially motivated crimes and extremism.

25. Albania welcomed efforts to address issues related the protection of minority groups, in particular the Roma integration. However, discrimination persisted, and Albania encouraged Slovakia to continue to prevent anti-Roma campaigns and sentiments.

26. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and progress made in education and combating discrimination.

27. Argentina congratulated Slovakia for the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance.

28. Australia welcomed the efforts of Slovakia to protect the rights of LGBTI peoples. It remained concerned about discrimination against the Roma. While noting the efforts of Slovakia to combat corruption, Australia remained concerned about reported levels of corruption.

29. Austria noted a decrease of violence against the Roma due to the efforts of the Government. Journalists had been subject to lawsuits and to serious verbal insults, including by officials. Austria highlighted the importance to protect journalists against any form of intimidation.

30. Azerbaijan appreciated the adoption of the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2016–2020. However, it expressed concern that

intolerance against Muslims, Jews and persons of African descent, and hate crime and hate speech against minorities remained prevalent.

31. Bahamas congratulated Slovakia for, inter alia, the approval of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence and the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

32. Belarus noted prevalence of hate crimes, including against the Roma and Muslims, the use of excessive force by police, limitations on the right to vote of persons with disabilities and inadequate punishment for the crimes of human trafficking. The level of cooperation with special procedures mandate holders remained limited.

33. Belgium noted the efforts of Slovakia to implement the recommendations from its previous review. It considered that further progress could be made to promote the rights of women and to combat against discrimination.

34. Benin noted with satisfaction reforms to improve the normative and institutional framework for human rights, including the amendment to the Education and Training Act, and the creation of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

35. Bhutan commended Slovakia for the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in 2015, changes made to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure and the adoption of the Act on Criminal Liability of Legal Persons.

36. Brazil commended Slovakia for changes in criminal law related to the crimes of extremism and racially motivated crimes and the enactment of the Crime Victims Act, particularly the provisions related to the protection of victims of domestic violence.

37. Bulgaria noted the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and progress made in implementing strategies on human rights, on gender equality, on the protection of children from violence and on the Roma integration.

38. Canada was concerned at the killing of a journalist and his fiancée in February 2018, and hoped that all the political leaders reaffirm their determination to fight against corruption, defend freedom of expression and independence of the media.

39. Chile recognized the efforts of the Government for the development of national strategies in relation to gender equality and the elimination of racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

40. China welcomed efforts of the Government to develop education and increase employment, combat racism, extremism and hate speech. It noted the adoption of the Strategy for the Integration of the Roma until 2020.

41. Croatia commended the adoption of strategies on gender equality and on human rights. It noted high representation of women in the judiciary, but was concerned about underrepresentation of women in Parliament and the Government.

42. Cuba noted the progress made in improving the infrastructure and institutions of human rights as well as in the identification of challenges in areas of gender equity, and combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination against minorities, in particular the Roma.

43. Cyprus commended Slovakia for the measures taken to implement its international human rights obligations, in particular the adoption of the National Strategy and the Action Plan for Gender Equality as well as the constructive cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.

44. The Czech Republic welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the Commissioner for Children, and the adoption of national strategies and action plans addressing inter alia discrimination and gender equality.
45. Denmark noted the legal barriers to abortion, introduced into Slovak law with the effect of deterring women from accessing abortion services. It also noted that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights was accredited with B status.
46. Ecuador noted the adoption of the Law on Criminal Responsibility of Legal Persons, Crime Victims Act and national plans on combating extremism, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and all forms of discrimination.
47. Egypt noted the adoption of a strategy on the protection of children from violence and measures taken to combat violence against women and to promote gender equality. It encouraged Egypt to pursue its efforts to counter crimes of extremism.
48. El Salvador acknowledged the adoption of the National Strategy on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the creation of the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. It urged El Salvador to continue working on the protection of the rights of children.
49. Eritrea recognized the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the second cycle. It commended Slovakia for adoption of the national strategies on the protection and promotion of human rights, gender equality and Roma integration.
50. Finland commended Slovakia for its strong antidiscrimination legislation. It noted, however, that there was a need to monitor its implementation and enhance the awareness of both citizens and the administration on its contents and implications.
51. France welcomed the very satisfactory human rights situation in Slovakia and encouraged it to strengthen further the respect for human rights.
52. Georgia appreciated voluntary pledges and commitments of Slovakia within the Human Rights Council for 2018-2020 and welcomed the implementation of national strategies and plans in various areas of human rights, particularly the National Strategy on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights.
53. Germany acknowledged the increasing participation of Roma in national, regional and local elections and welcomed the explicit recognition of crimes against Roma. It was concerned by discrimination against Roma and persistent hate speech, particularly against minorities, Muslims and non-citizens.
54. Greece commended the adoption of the National Strategies for the Protection of Children from Violence and for Gender Equality, as well as the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women.
55. Slovakia established an interministerial mechanism for the follow up of the recommendations from the universal periodic review, which worked in consultation with civil society. In 2015, the Ministry of Justice was assigned important responsibilities related to human rights, including coordination of the implementation of national policies related to human rights, while various ministries were responsible for the implementation of those policies.
56. The Government adopted the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination 2016-2019 to strengthen the implementation of the Anti-discrimination Act and support the efforts of public organizations and non-governmental organisations in combatting

discrimination. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights made an analysis of the Act and put forward several recommendations on how to improve the Act.

57. Despite the fact that a draft action plan on the rights of LGBTI persons was not ultimately adopted, the ministries had been implementing several activities envisaged in the plan. The Criminal Code provided the protection against hate crime and hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation. An expert committee on the rights of LGBTI persons, which was composed of government and non-governmental entities, had been working on policies to ensure equality for LGBTI persons.

58. The Ministry of Justice, in coordination with the Council of Europe had been implementing a large-scale project to improve the efficiency of the judiciary. The Ministry of Justice established working groups on some priority issues related to the judiciary. The appointment procedure for judges was reformed.

59. The National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014-2019 was drafted in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention despite the fact that Slovakia had not yet ratified the Convention. Amendments of several legal acts had improved the protection of the victims of domestic violence, including by extending the expulsion order from 48 hours to up to 10 days. An important step was the establishment of the Coordinating Methodical Centre for Gender-Based and Domestic Violence and the non-stop free of charge Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence.

60. Slovakia adopted the Act on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in 2016 to strengthen the protection of the rights of child and persons with disabilities by establishing an independent institution to receive and investigate individual cases and recommend remedies. The Commissioner was authorised to enter into civil proceedings as a third party and to inform the Government if a public body did not accept or implement its recommendations.

61. The Act on Social Economy and Social Enterprises aimed at strengthening the rights of vulnerable groups in the labour market. The Government had increased the minimum wage, social benefits and pensions to improve the standard of living and combat poverty.

62. Honduras congratulated Slovakia for the progress achieved in the area of human rights and welcomed the voluntary commitments made by Slovakia. It expressed its support to Slovakia for effective implementation of the recommendations received.

63. Hungary noted that Slovakia was a party to almost all core international human rights conventions. It, however, noted that despite its efforts to address human rights challenges, there remained a room for further improvement.

64. Iceland commended Slovakia for the progress made in strengthening the policy and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

65. India noted positively the measures to prevent all forms of discrimination, protect the rights of minorities and ethnic groups, combat human trafficking and promote rights of persons with disabilities. It noted, however, the incidents of continued racial discrimination against Roma.

66. Indonesia appreciated the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination 2015-2019. It welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

67. Islamic Republic of Iran commended the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children. It noted concerns expressed over the prevalence of racial discrimination against different minorities, especially Roma, Muslims and persons of African descent.

68. Iraq commended Slovakia for measures taken under the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2014-2019. It noted the adoption of the Concept for the Fight against Extremism and legal amendments made in this regard.
69. Ireland welcomed the adoption of strategies and action plans addressing specific human rights issues, notably those relating to combatting violence against women and protecting children from violence. It welcomed measures taken to address education needs of children.
70. Israel commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality, the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2014-2019, and the approval of the Action Plan for Preventing and Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism 2016-2018.
71. Italy commended Slovakia for the adoption of a National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, a National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women, and the National Strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights.
72. Jordan commended the adoption of a number of strategies, notably to protect women and children from violence. However, it noted that stereotypes continued to be entrenched in society and that discrimination against minorities was a concern.
73. Kyrgyzstan supported the strengthening of the national legislative frameworks, ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, and undertaking practical measures in promoting human rights.
74. Libya commended Slovakia for the progress made in promoting human rights, in particular through the adoption of voluntary commitments made to the Human Rights Council.
75. Liechtenstein welcomed measures taken to prevent the placement of children in special schools because of their social background, and to provide access to preschool education to Roma children.
76. Malaysia noted that Slovakia had taken initiatives to address violence against women as outlined in the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women. It welcomed the National Strategy for Gender Equality, and encouraged Slovakia to adopt measures to reduce maternal mortality.
77. Maldives commended achievements of Slovakia in the provision of safe drinking water for over 92 per cent of the population through the public water supply network, and noted the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence.
78. Mexico acknowledged progress since the last review, in particular the adoption of national strategies on promoting human rights, gender equality, and Roma integration, and the Slovak government's commitment to institutional protection of the rights of women.
79. Mongolia encouraged Slovakia to further strengthen its measures for prevention and elimination of violence against women and enhance implementation of the relevant national action plans by allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources.
80. Montenegro commended Slovakia for establishing the Offices of the Commissioner for Children and of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and the adoption of the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
81. Myanmar noted the implementation of National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, the National Action Plan for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women, and a national strategy and an action plan on gender equality.

82. The Netherlands commended Slovakia for the adoption of a national strategy and action plan on gender equality and for developments related to the rights of LGBTI persons, including the establishment of a Committee on the rights of LGBTI persons. However, it noted that LGBTI persons still faced discrimination.
83. Norway commended Slovakia for its efforts towards Roma inclusion. It recognised acceptance by Slovakia same-sex marriages for residency purposes.
84. Pakistan noted the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence and the establishment of a National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children. It was concerned at the prevalence of racial discrimination against Roma, Muslims and persons of African descent.
85. The Philippines welcomed implementation of measures and strategies to eliminate violence against women and children, efforts in combatting human trafficking, and the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights.
86. Poland commended the new national legislation adopted with regard to the rights of children and women and the fight against all forms of extremism, racism and xenophobia.
87. Portugal welcomed the measures taken since the second review, namely in the field of protection of children from violence.
88. The Republic of Korea acknowledged measures to eliminate discrimination against minorities through adoption of the Action Plan to Protect the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and the Strategy for the Integration of Roma.
89. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the national referral mechanism for identifying trafficking victims and the implementation of measures of social legal protection of children and social care for victims of human trafficking.
90. Romania commended the adoption of the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the measures taken to protect women and children against violence, to promote gender equality, facilitate access to education and protect the rights of minorities.
91. The Russian Federation expressed concern about discrimination against the Roma, high rate of employment among Roma and hoped that improvements in those areas would be made soon. It welcomed the Strategy for the Integration of Roma and relevant action plans, noting that Roma should be included in the implementation process.
92. Senegal applauded the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Rural Development Programme. It praised Slovakia for its financial contributions to the work of the OHCHR.
93. Serbia commended Slovakia for the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence, the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and the National Strategy for Gender Equality.
94. Singapore acknowledged measures to protect the rights of minorities and marginalised communities, including the Roma, to combat domestic violence, including by introducing the definition of such crime in the Crime Victims Act, and to combat human trafficking.
95. Slovenia praised the adoption of strategies to protect the rights of children, women and minorities. It encouraged Slovakia to take additional measures to safeguard the freedom of expression and to promote gender equality.
96. The delegation of Slovakia stated that the Government set up the position of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities to improve the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The Government gave a priority to improving the situation of the

Roma in various areas. The Government adopted the National Roma Integration Strategy up to 2020. The strategy consisted of seven national plans covering health, education, housing, employment, financial inclusion, non-discrimination and approaches toward majority population – initiative of Roma integration through communication. In 2018, the Government approved a decree, which outlined eleven concrete steps to strengthen the efforts to ensure integration of the members of the Roma in society.

97. The National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights emphasised the importance of maintaining the continuous dialogue with civil society. The Office of the Plenipotentiary for the development of civil society was assigned to coordinate the engagement and the participation of civil society in public affairs.

98. The Government set a priority to ensure equal treatment in the provision of accessible and high quality healthcare services for all citizens, in line with international human rights standards. Health professionals were required to follow code of ethics in order to avoid violations of legal requirements in access to health care. The Government made efforts to provide adequate care for pregnant women and unborn. All women had access to various methods of contraception, albeit they were not covered under the public health scheme.

99. The Government adopted legislative and other measures to address illegal sterilisation. Since 2004, the Government had not received any information or requests to investigate cases of illegal sterilisations, which could indicate that legislation, had been effective to prevent such cases. Healthcare workers specialised in sexual and reproductive health were informed about the requirement of having consent for sterilisation procedures.

100. Due to incidents of extremism in other European Union member states, the Government had implemented various preventative measures, including awareness raising campaigns, educational trainings and concrete legislative measures.

101. The Concept of the Fight against Extremism 2015-2019 represented a basic document to define the strategic priorities in the area of prevention and elimination of the radicalization, extremism and associated anti-society activities. The authorities also adopted the Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance 2016-2018, and it established in 2011 the Committee to Prevent Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism. The Committee represented the unique association, which included representatives from the central and regional governments, civil society and experts with the academic background. The authorities adopted an amendment to the Criminal Code in 2017 to make the investigation of extremism and racially motivated crimes more effective.

102. The Government did not intervene in enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by everyone regardless of religious affiliation. In 2010, a decision of the Constitutional Court emphasized that members of non-registered religious organisations were entitled to equal rights along with registered organisations. The authorities had provided enabling environment for functioning of non-registered religious organisations as long as their activities complied with national legislation.

103. Spain commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and recognised the existence of the Special Representative of Roma. It encouraged Slovakia to continue combating gender discrimination.

104. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps to combat discrimination, including the adoption of the Action Plan for Preventing all Forms of Discrimination.

105. Sweden praised the legislative amendments to reduce segregation in schools. It was concerned about developments regarding freedom of expression and that Roma women and LGBTI persons had been still facing obstacles in enjoyment of their rights.

106. Switzerland was concerned about discrimination against the Roma and deterioration of the situation in the area of freedom of expression and freedom of the media.
107. Thailand applauded efforts to implement the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, to establish the Office of the Commissioner for Children, to introduce education law amendment and to integrate minorities.
108. Togo commended the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and expressed conviction that further progress could be made to ensure better enjoyment of human rights.
109. Tunisia praised the adoption of legislation and strategies to combat discrimination and violence against women and children.
110. Turkey welcomed the efforts to adopt the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and eliminate discrimination against Roma, noting that the Roma children and women continued to face discrimination in education and healthcare.
111. Turkmenistan praised the approval of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and other strategies, promoting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
112. The United Kingdom noted that improvements were required on rights of the Roma, tackling corruption, reforming police governance and enhancing the effectiveness of the judiciary, and that Slovakia was committed to address those issues. It urged Slovakia to address issues of media freedom and protect journalists.
113. The United States of America welcomed reforms in the selection process of judges and the adoption of code of conduct for judges. It noted with concern violence against minorities, including the Roma, shortfalls in integrating Roma and combating discrimination.
114. Ukraine commended Slovakia for positive changes in the area of human rights and in particular in the protection of the rights of women and children through the adoption of national strategies on human rights, on gender equality and on the protection of children from violence.
115. The Government adopted the National Programme for Development of Education and Training, Quality and Availability of Education, which would be updated regularly depending on the status of implementation. The Programme aimed at enhancing inclusion and the transition to a new education model taking into account the Finnish education model. It included a set of measures to ensure inclusion in education and strengthen support for Roma children and children from socially disadvantaged families, to develop pre-school compulsory education and to increase a number of school personnel. Since 2016, the Ministry of Education had been implementing a national project – a school open to all – to ensure an inclusive education in 130 primary schools and 50 kindergartens. The project focused on the prevention and elimination of segregation of Roma students and the enhancement of competencies of professionals in identifying segregation in schools.
116. The Government had been implementing a new directive to prevent bullying and cyberbullying in schools starting in 2018.
117. The Government believed that sustainable development of its people would be possible to achieve by ensuring security, prosperity and human rights. In ensuring the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Government had been aware of the need to remain vigilant since the rights and freedoms had been under attack. The authorities had brought to justice eight individuals due to the investigation of killing of Ján Kuciak, an investigative journalist. The Government continued to explore ways on how to improve freedom of press and expression and to ensure security of journalists.

118. Slovakia had remained committed to the rule of law. The experience of Slovakia under various governing systems had demonstrated that democracy and rule of law were the only guarantees to ensure sovereignty of its people. Holders of radical and extreme views had been making attempt to gain power to limit freedoms and human rights by disseminating incorrect information. However, Slovakia had been relying on its mechanisms of checks and balances in such situation.

119. In conclusion, the head of the delegation expressed sincere appreciation to the United Nations Member States for their engagement and recommendations during the interactive dialogue. He reiterated the commitment of Slovakia to protect and promote human rights.

120. Slovakia was also committed to multilateralism and the Government had cooperated with international community to prevent and counter common threats, representing a danger to human civilisation, human rights and democracy. The engagement with the universal periodic review had reinforced Slovakia's belief in meaningful international cooperation. Slovakia would pay its upmost attention to the recommendations received. The Government was also pleased to use the opportunity to share its best practices and lessons learnt in the spirit of multilateral cooperation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

121. The following recommendations will be examined by Slovakia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council:

121.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Azerbaijan) (Czech Republic) (Croatia) (Montenegro) (Senegal) (Switzerland);

121.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without further delay (Denmark);

121.3 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil 2); Accelerate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile); Intensify efforts on the speedy ratification of the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (Ukraine); Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);

121.4 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Azerbaijan) (Kyrgyzstan);

121.5 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

121.6 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Belgium) (France) (Italy) (Iceland);

121.7 Ratify the Istanbul Convention – Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, which was signed in 2011 (Turkey);

- 121.8 Intensify consideration of the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Georgia);
- 121.9 Reinitiate the ratification process of the Istanbul Convention and take further steps to prevent violence against women as well as to promote gender equality (Germany);
- 121.10 Reconsider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Spain); Consider ratifying the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 121.11 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom);
- 121.12 Follow the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on human trafficking (Austria);
- 121.13 Intensify the practical cooperation with the Human Rights Council special procedures regarding the organization of country visits, including the acceptance of a request for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination (Belarus);
- 121.14 Take all efforts to implement voluntary pledges and commitments (Bhutan);
- 121.15 Take further measures on successful implementation of Voluntary Pledges and Commitments of the Slovak Republic for 2018-2020 (Turkmenistan);
- 121.16 Complete the legislative procedures required to ensure its National Centre for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Australia); Complete, without further delay, the legislative procedures to ensure that the Slovak NHRI is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with status A (Denmark); Complete the legislative procedure ensuring that the Slovak National Center for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with Status A (Bulgaria);
- 121.17 Complete the process of legislative changes to ensure that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and that it is provided with adequate financial and human resources to assist it in meeting the standards required by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Ireland);
- 121.18 Adopt legislative measures to strengthen the mandate of its national human rights institution so that it is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 121.19 Enable the National Human Rights Institution of Slovakia to work in accordance with the Paris Principles in order for it to claim the A status (Senegal);
- 121.20 Take additional measures to further strengthen the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Finland);

- 121.21 Take all necessary measures to ensure that the National Centre for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, thus upgrading this National Human Rights Institution to an A status body (Ukraine);
- 121.22 Strengthen the independence and mandate of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles, and ensure adequate funding for the institution (Mongolia);
- 121.23 Further strengthen the national human rights institution, the Slovak National Center for human rights, to assure that it fully complies with the Paris Principles (Norway);
- 121.24 Strengthen the mandate and independence of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and allocate more resources to the Centre to bring it into line with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);
- 121.25 Continue efforts to enhance the mandate of the national human rights institution and to strengthen its independence (Tunisia);
- 121.26 Take legislative measures to strengthen the mandate and independence of Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (Togo);
- 121.27 Ensure the independence of the institution of the Commissioner for Children so as to guarantee full compliance with the Paris Principles (Bahamas);
- 121.28 Continue efforts to uphold the rights of women, children, particularly, through the National Programme for the Care of Children and Adolescents (Turkmenistan);
- 121.29 Redouble efforts to raise awareness about discriminatory stereotypes regarding the social and family roles of women and men, in order to achieve effective gender equality in society (Uruguay);
- 121.30 Continue efforts to improve gender equality in the country (Viet Nam);
- 121.31 Continue the national efforts aimed at achieving women empowerment and equality between women and men in all areas (Egypt);
- 121.32 Continue to strengthen its effective measures in order to promote further understanding of gender equality (Myanmar);
- 121.33 Redouble efforts and take effective measures to promote general understanding of gender equality among the population (Togo);
- 121.34 Implement awareness-raising campaigns to promote general understanding of gender equality among young people (Republic of Moldova);
- 121.35 Take appropriate measures for the efficient implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2014-2019, including through ensuring its adequate funding (Greece);
- 121.36 Integrate the United Nations SDG number five on gender equality in the National Strategy and National Investment Plan for 2018 - 2030 and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Norway);
- 121.37 Continue efforts against discrimination and on the prevention and elimination of racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and other forms of intolerance (Romania);
- 121.38 Continue its efforts to combat racism and xenophobia (Libya);

- 121.39 **Take additional serious measures to combat xenophobia, hate speech and discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity and religion (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 121.40 **Implement effectively relevant strategies and action plans to address discrimination, racism and xenophobia faced by ethnic minorities, particularly Roma (Thailand);**
- 121.41 **Pursue its efforts aiming at fighting against all forms of racism and xenophobia, promoting the rights of the child and the right to freedom of religion or belief, and religious tolerance (Benin);**
- 121.42 **Intensify efforts to investigate and judicially sanction all cases of discrimination based on ethnic or national origin, including threats, verbal and physical attacks, and hate speech (Argentina);**
- 121.43 **Adopt measures to combat racial discrimination against different minorities, namely Roma, and remove all obstacles that prevent their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (Portugal);**
- 121.44 **Increase measures to prevent and punish all forms of racial discrimination against Roma persons, Muslims and other minorities, as well as all incitements to violence (Ecuador);**
- 121.45 **Continue efforts aimed to combat racial discrimination against minorities, particularly the Roma, Muslims and people of African descent (Tunisia);**
- 121.46 **Take all appropriate measures to put an end to discrimination and intimidation of persons belonging to the Roma, Muslims and African groups (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 121.47 **Strengthen specific measures to prevent and combat discrimination against different minorities, especially Roma persons (Honduras);**
- 121.48 **Intensify the efforts towards the elimination of the racial discrimination and to overcome obstacles to access to justice for victims (Iraq);**
- 121.49 **Adopt effective measures to prevent racist attacks and to combat hate rhetoric and ensure that all racially motivated crimes, incidents of hate speech, as well as allegations of excessive use of force by police officers, are investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Azerbaijan);**
- 121.50 **Take urgent measures to prevent racially motivated attacks against minorities (Malaysia);**
- 121.51 **Take measures to prevent racist attacks, in particular against Roma, Muslims and other persons of African descent (Pakistan);**
- 121.52 **Take measures to apply effectively the Law against Discrimination and Plan of Action on Preventing and Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia, Antisemitism and other forms of Intolerance (Honduras);**
- 121.53 **Prohibit by law any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination on any grounds (Pakistan);**
- 121.54 **Ensure the judicial prosecution for participation in funding organizations that incite racial discrimination and investigate and prosecute perpetrators of all crimes of discrimination (Jordan);**

- 121.55 Strengthen the fight against racism, extremism and hate speech, protect the rights of the Roma and of other minority persons and successfully implement the Concept for the Fight against Extremism 2015-2019 (China);
- 121.56 Adopt effective measures to combat hate speech and ensure that cases of hate speech are investigated and prosecuted and the perpetrators punished (Belgium);
- 121.57 Put an end to the phenomenon of hate speech and hate crimes in political speech, in the media and in the Internet against all religious and racial minorities (Jordan);
- 121.58 Adopt effective measures to combat hate speech, and ensure that all incidents of hate speech were investigated and prosecuted (Viet Nam);
- 121.59 Redouble efforts to monitor all the incidents related to hate crimes and hate speech, to investigate them and to bring perpetrators to justice (Togo);
- 121.60 Strengthen mechanism for combating hate crimes and hate speech (France);
- 121.61 Take measures to prevent racist attacks, combat hate speech and crimes of extremism especially against minorities, and ensure that all incidents were investigated and prosecuted and that the perpetrators were punished (State of Palestine);
- 121.62 Take all necessary steps to end impunity and ensure that all responsible for all kinds of hate crimes and hate speech are brought to justice (Pakistan);
- 121.63 Adopt preventive measures to fight against the rise of intolerance and of radicalization, particularly among young people (Algeria);
- 121.64 Adopt preventive measures to fight intolerance and violence, particularly among young people (Egypt);
- 121.65 Continue to take affirmative action and advocate national strategies to address issues of discrimination and intolerance within its society (Indonesia);
- 121.66 Promote respect and intercultural understanding among different groups in society, and intensify efforts to combat anti-minority rhetoric in the public discourse (Eritrea);
- 121.67 Enhance inter-ethnic, inter-religious, and inter-cultural understanding within the society, ensure access to justice and redress for victims of racial hatred or violence (Malaysia);
- 121.68 Conduct awareness raising campaigns and promote human rights education to prevent all forms of discrimination and intolerance in all sections of society. Priority should be to develop and implement effective initiatives in accordance with the Action Plans to combat racism, xenophobia and extremism (Afghanistan);
- 121.69 Continue to promote and protect the rights of its LGBTI community (Australia);
- 121.70 Increase efforts to guarantee the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons (Chile);
- 121.71 Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples (Iceland);

- 121.72 End discrimination against same-sex couples and legalize the registration of same-sex partnerships (Netherlands);
- 121.73 Provide couples of different sexes and same sex couples who live together with the rights that correspond to their situation, for example, in the areas of housing, social assistance and inheritance, in particular by establishing a civil partnership (France);
- 121.74 Undertake efforts to eradicate negative rhetoric and hate speech against the LGBTI persons (Mexico);
- 121.75 Take concrete policy measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Sweden);
- 121.76 Extend the provisions of domestic hate speech legislation to cover sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristic (Iceland);
- 121.77 Initiate again a plan to adopt a national action plan on LGBTI equality (Norway);
- 121.78 Amend the Criminal Code to include specific reference to hate crimes for sexual orientation and that sexual orientation is not considered a ground for disability (Spain);
- 121.79 Set up an independent anti-corruption body to investigate all allegations of corruption and to prosecute before the new independent anti-corruption court (Canada);
- 121.80 Take all necessary steps to strengthen anti-corruption laws, ensure independence of the judiciary and protect the rights and safety of journalists (Australia);
- 121.81 Reform the police and prosecution services by improving transparency and oversight to combat corruption, increase accountability and improve public trust in the judicial system (United States of America);
- 121.82 Initiate the process of developing a national action plan on business and human rights in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Czechia);
- 121.83 Adopt a National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Germany);
- 121.84 Adopt a national plan of action on business and human rights on the basis of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Spain);
- 121.85 Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serves to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);
- 121.86 Continue to duly examine and investigate all reports of alleged inhumane treatment or use of violence, particularly against Roma, be it by police forces or individuals (Austria);
- 121.87 Take necessary actions to cease inhuman or degrading ill-treatment against the persons with disabilities, particularly psychological disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 121.88 Strengthen measures to prevent acts of torture and other inhumane treatment or punishment by ratifying and implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Netherlands);
- 121.89 Investigate promptly all allegations of excessive use of force, including torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);
- 121.90 Continue to strengthen the fight against incitement to violence and discrimination against minority and vulnerable groups. Ensure that hate crimes are effectively investigated and their perpetrators sanctioned (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.91 Continue to update the relevant strategies and to strengthen legislation to root out family violence (Singapore);
- 121.92 Improve the functioning of the judicial system by implementing a ‘Swift Justice’ programme and an automated case management system to track the progress of cases so as to reduce the current backlog (Bahamas);
- 121.93 Implement and rigorously enforce ethical standards and reforms to the judicial selection and appointment process in order to safeguard the justice system and judicial accountability (United States of America);
- 121.94 Continue to improve the functioning of the judicial system in order to enhance the efficiency of judicial proceedings (Romania);
- 121.95 Continue improving the functioning of the justice system, including the prosecution, and the fight against the corruption and the slowness of judicial procedures (France);
- 121.96 Establish an independent and impartial oversight authority over the police in order to investigate alleged cases of ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice (Canada);
- 121.97 Continue to reform its legal framework on freedom of religion in order to facilitate a climate of religious harmony and cooperation (Albania);
- 121.98 Ensure that public broadcasters remain free of political pressure and journalists are protected, including by prompt and effective investigations into concerns about their safety (United Kingdom);
- 121.99 Intensify efforts to protect journalists against any form of intimidation, including verbal assaults (Austria);
- 121.100 Take effective measures to guarantee the safety of journalists, and prosecute all attacks against journalists (Germany);
- 121.101 Guarantee a safe and secure environment for journalists, including measures that protect them from any act of retaliation and duly address their right to the confidentiality of sources (Poland);
- 121.102 Take necessary measures to ensure the safety of journalists and that media can express themselves freely without risking excessive fines (Switzerland);
- 121.103 Respect, protect and promote freedom of expression of journalists and media actors and take all necessary steps to ensure that the media can perform its work safely (Sweden);

- 121.104 Consider additional measures to protect freedom of the press and the rights of journalists, including prompt and effective investigation by the law enforcement about the risks to their safety and security (Slovenia);
- 121.105 In light of the killing of journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírová, take all measures to protect and support journalists working to uncover corruption and other matters of the highest public interest (Iceland);
- 121.106 Continue to strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with effective measures to identify and prevent such crimes (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.107 Redouble efforts aimed at combatting trafficking in persons, paying special attention to women and girls (Honduras);
- 121.108 Implement legislation aimed at countering trafficking and allocating sufficient resources and funds to its anti-trafficking efforts (Bahamas);
- 121.109 Renew the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for 2015-2018 period including the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (Indonesia);
- 121.110 Further enhance its ongoing efforts to combat trafficking in person and continue the support programme for the victims of human trafficking particularly the vulnerable groups (Myanmar);
- 121.111 Continue efforts to prevent exploitation of and trafficking in migrants (Iraq);
- 121.112 Continue to strengthen measures to prevent and eliminate trafficking in children, particularly in Roma girls (Maldives);
- 121.113 Continue advancing policies and strengthening mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons and provide protection and assistance to victims (Philippines);
- 121.114 Strengthen further efforts in the area of combating human trafficking, including improving the national mechanism for the identification, protection and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking (Belarus);
- 121.115 Enhance efforts to support and reintegrate victims of modern slavery in its most vulnerable communities in order to reduce the risk of re-trafficking (United Kingdom);
- 121.116 Intensify efforts aimed at early identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, assistance to victims, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, and addressing of root causes (Ecuador);
- 121.117 Strengthen efforts for the early identification of the victims of trafficking in persons, provide them with protection, and bring perpetrators of the crimes of human trafficking to justice, as many international reports indicate that Slovakia continues to be a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking crimes, particularly for labor, sexual exploitation and forced begging (Jordan);
- 121.118 Provide training to security forces, migration officers, prosecutors and judges in order to improve the identification of victims of trafficking and their protection (Israel);

- 121.119 Expand Government's outreach campaigns in partnership with relevant stakeholders to target those who are most at risk of being trafficked (Singapore);
- 121.120 Provide full protection and support to the family, as it is the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);
- 121.121 Continue to strengthen social policies, especially the promotion of employment and health assistance for the most impoverished sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.122 Promote economic and social development to help people in poverty to raise their standard of living and protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);
- 121.123 Strengthen efforts to increase healthcare services, particularly in improving access to healthcare gynaecology and obstetrics wards for marginalized women (Bhutan);
- 121.124 Allocate sufficient financial resources to further promote early childhood education (Malaysia);
- 121.125 Ensure equal access to all levels of education for every child without discrimination (Iceland);
- 121.126 Continue its efforts to ensure the right to quality and inclusive education with a focus on access to education for children belonging to minority communities and for children with disabilities (Afghanistan);
- 121.127 Step up efforts to adopt a clear roadmap to sustainable and inclusive education, focusing particularly on children with disabilities and those belonging to minority groups (Poland);
- 121.128 Continue efforts to further improve access to education for socially disadvantaged children and to increase the school enrolment rate among Roma (Czechia);
- 121.129 Ensure access to all levels of education for every child without any discrimination based on ethnicity, including for Roma pupils (Hungary);
- 121.130 Dedicate meaningful resources in order to ensure equal access to quality education and better education inclusion of Roma children in the schooling system of Slovakia (Slovenia);
- 121.131 Continue its efforts to ensure equal access to education for all and in particular for Roma children, and address any discrimination or segregation within the educational system (Greece);
- 121.132 Promote the inclusion of Roma children and children with disabilities in the Slovak education system and provide support to schools in order to allow them to fight segregation in schools (France);
- 121.133 Continue to develop anti-discrimination strategies in school curricula at all levels of the educational system (Cyprus);
- 121.134 Further strengthen its national framework for promoting human rights education in the primary and secondary levels (Philippines);
- 121.135 Intensify efforts to promote human rights education and training, taking into account the current and previous phases of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (Thailand);

- 121.136 **Promote effectively the participation of women in the public sector (Azerbaijan);**
- 121.137 **Take measures to increase the representation of women in decision making positions in public and private sectors and eliminate gender based wage inequality (Cuba);**
- 121.138 **Promote the gender equality, increase the participation of women in the labour market, and reduce the wage gap between women and men (Iraq);**
- 121.139 **Improve access to decent work for all women, eliminate all discrimination against women at work, and create socio-economic opportunities for women (Malaysia);**
- 121.140 **Promote women's access to the labour market, eliminate horizontal and vertical imbalance between women and men in the labour market and close the gender pay gap (Croatia);**
- 121.141 **Take effective measures to prevent and avoid cases of all forms of violence against women (Mexico);**
- 121.142 **Adopt a comprehensive program on sexual and reproductive health and rights and allocate sufficient resources for its implementation (Belgium);**
- 121.143 **Continue addressing problems of reproductive health by means of National Programme for the Care of Children and Adolescents (Georgia);**
- 121.144 **Ensure universal coverage by the state health insurance of all costs related to sexual and reproductive health and modern contraceptive methods (Iceland);**
- 121.145 **Take effective measures to ensure women's access to safe abortion care, including by removing the requirement of mandatory waiting periods and third-party authorization (Denmark);**
- 121.146 **Revise the Health Care Act to ensure access to safe abortion and remove requirements for mandatory counselling, medically unnecessary waiting periods and third-party authorization (Iceland);**
- 121.147 **Establish an independent body to conduct a comprehensive survey of the number of women who have been sterilized without their informed consent (Canada);**
- 121.148 **Promote the rights of the child (Libya);**
- 121.149 **Put an end to corporal punishment of children in all settings and encourage non-violent forms of discipline as alternatives (Austria);**
- 121.150 **Intensify its efforts to fully implement National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Violence (Montenegro);**
- 121.151 **Adopt a human rights based approach to disability (Algeria);**
- 121.152 **Adopt norms and necessary measures for the comprehensive protection of the rights of persons with disabilities with a human rights-based approach (Ecuador);**
- 121.153 **Further consolidate measures in support of people with disabilities (Romania);**
- 121.154 **Ensure equal rights for persons with disabilities (India);**

- 121.155 Take further steps to provide welfare services and social assistance to all persons with disabilities, especially children (Bulgaria);
- 121.156 Strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities by recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination (Eritrea);
- 121.157 Ensure inclusive education and accessibility of health-care services and facilities for persons with disabilities (Israel);
- 121.158 Continue and strengthen efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, in accessing health-care services (Maldives);
- 121.159 Adopt policies aimed at including representatives of national minorities and ethnic groups at the different levels of national and local government, as previously recommended (Uruguay);
- 121.160 Ensure that the use of minority languages in public life is in line with the principle under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and implement the national minority-related commitments set by the Treaty on good neighbourhood relations and friendly cooperation between Hungary and Slovakia (Hungary);
- 121.161 Adopt a complex and comprehensive nationality law on securing the development and preservation of identity of national minorities, allowing practical opportunities for the mentioned groups, such as self-governance (Hungary);
- 121.162 Create environment inclusive for all persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities through promoting tolerance and ensure equal opportunities for their participation in decision making process (Azerbaijan);
- 121.163 Continue to improve legislation and institutions for the protection of the rights of national minorities (Chile);
- 121.164 Make further efforts to promote an environment inclusive of persons belonging to ethnic, national, racial, religious and other minorities and, in this regard, to provide them with access to adequate housing, equal education opportunities and better living conditions (Republic of Korea);
- 121.165 Adopt preventive measures to tackle intolerance and promote inclusion of all minority groups, particularly among young people (Republic of Moldova);
- 121.166 Continue working on the implementation of actions to combat discrimination against minorities, in particular to improve the living standards and integration of Roma persons in the areas of education, health, employment and housing (Cuba);
- 121.167 Eliminate all forms of discriminatory practices against Roma people (India 1);
- 121.168 Increase its efforts to even further protect the Roma population against discrimination, in particular segregation of Roma children in education (Norway);
- 121.169 Put an end to all form of discriminatory practices against Roma, in particular in access to education, housing, healthcare, social services and employment (Switzerland);

- 121.170 Take special measures to eliminate structural discrimination against the Roma and to remove all obstacles, impeding the realization of economic, social and cultural rights of Roma (Russian Federation);
- 121.171 Ensure effective implementation of the National strategy on the integration of Roma (Russian Federation);
- 121.172 Give a top priority to the implementation of policies and actions aimed at ensuring that the Roma community and other marginalized or vulnerable groups are not subject to exclusion or forced segregation (Mexico);
- 121.173 Continue efforts in reducing segregation and integrating of the Roma community, especially in ensuring equal access to all levels of education for every child regardless of their ethnicity, in line with Slovakia's international human rights obligations, and implement programs to enhance their equal access to health services, housing and employment (Finland);
- 121.174 Continue to implement plans for the social inclusion of Roma in employment, education, housing and health care; and strengthen the protection of the rights of Roma women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.175 Continue its work on addressing discrimination and segregation faced by the Roma minority with regards to the access to public services such as education and health (Turkey);
- 121.176 Accelerate efforts to implement its National Roma Integration Strategy to reduce poverty and address discrimination and segregation of Roma communities (Australia);
- 121.177 Continue to take steps to fully implement the Strategy for the Integration of Roma until 2020, paying particular attention to the fulfilment of the rights to education, health and housing of marginalized Roma communities (Brazil);
- 121.178 Implement more inclusive policies on the inclusion of the Roma, for example in education and housing with better access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity (Spain);
- 121.179 Take further steps to protect and integrate Roma, inter alia, by ensuring their equal access to housing, ending segregation of Roma children in schools and avoiding the discrimination of Roma in the labor market. Prosecute the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against Roma (Germany);
- 121.180 Ensure effective mechanism towards access to healthcare, education, adequate housing and environment aimed at promoting social inclusion of Roma people (India);
- 121.181 Adopt concrete and effective measures to address and prevent discrimination of Roma women from their access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including for maternal health (Sweden);
- 121.182 Continue to implement measures to monitor children belonging to minorities in order to ensure that they remain in the educational system, highly appreciating the measures already taken to provide learning in languages other than Slovak (Uruguay);
- 121.183 Ensure equal rights for Roma children and their protection from all forms of discrimination (India);

121.184 Take all necessary measures to address the root causes of discrimination and segregation of Roma children in the education system (Liechtenstein);

121.185 Increase funding for equal access to education by Roma children in inclusive, mainstream education, per commitments in the National Roma Integration Strategy (United States of America);

121.186 Intensify measures to ensure access to education for Roma children, by eliminating discriminatory criteria for them from educational programs or practices (Argentina);

121.187 Ensure that all Roma children attend quality educational institutions that are inclusive and free from segregation (Canada);

121.188 Redouble its efforts to improve access for Roma children to the education system (Ireland);

121.189 Promote the integration of migrants into Slovak society through, among others, State-funded Slovak language classes and the recognition of diplomas obtained abroad (Viet Nam);

121.190 Develop a legal framework to ensure the rights of all migrants regardless of the status of their entry and stay and to promote safe, orderly and regular migration (Mexico);

121.191 Introduce protective measures for all migrant women, including undocumented ones (Portugal);

121.192 Continue guaranteeing access to justice to all migrant workers and members of their families (Philippines);

121.193 Strengthen the Centre for Legal Aid in order to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of foreigners, such as migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection (Indonesia);

121.194 Enhance the protection of unaccompanied minors, particularly by granting them access to education and vocational training (Senegal);

121.195 Continue with the implementation of measures to strengthen the protection of stateless persons, in particular through quality legal assistance (Serbia).

122. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Slovakia was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. František Ružička and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Juraj Podhorský, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Hana Kováčová, Director, Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
- Mr. Michal Komada, Director, Office of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
- Ms. Oľga Pietruchová, Director, Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Department of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family;
- Ms. Renáta Bierbaumer, Director, Foreign and European affairs Department, Office of the Minister of Interior, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Marián Filčík, Director, Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Juraj Kuruc, Director, Department for concepts and analyses, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Adriána Liptáková, Director, Healthcare Department at the Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Ludovít Hajduk, Director, National Institute for Education in Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport;
- Ms. Katarína Deáková, Head of Unit, Unit for the Cross-sectional topics in education of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport;
- Mr. Martin Mészáros, Adviser, Department of the International Cooperation, Office of the Minister of Culture, Ministry of Culture;
- Ms. Barbora Bojková, Adviser, Foreign and European Relations Department, Office of the Minister of Interior, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Peter Klenovský, Adviser, Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;
- Mr. Igor Kucer, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Veronika Turayová, Adviser, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.