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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Slovakia

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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, 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, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America 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 the 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 further advance the protection of human rights and to successfully implement the recommendations from the universal periodic review.
6. The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Basic Freedoms was set out in the Constitution and the constitutional Act. Slovakia had ratified regional human rights instruments of the Council of Europe and core international human rights treaties. The international human rights treaties had direct application in the national legal system and prevailed over national law.
7. The Government had drafted and adopted a national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights in 2015, through a 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 the process.
8. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council about the developments related to the follow-up of the previous review. Since signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Government had been drafting relevant legislative changes in preparation for its ratification.

9. The authorities expected to adopt an amendment to the Act on the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights in the near future. The amendment included changes to improve the selection process for the Director of the Centre and to strengthen the mandate and independence of the Centre so that it complied with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

10. The new Act on Victims of Crime, which entered into force in 2018, included a provision on assistance for victims, including psychological support, legal assistance and measures to avoid revictimization during the criminal proceedings. In the Act, special attention was paid to child victims, including through a provision for a 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 the attendance of children from families in disadvantaged situations. The Government had taken measures to make preschool education mandatory, with a view to improving the school attendance of Roma children.

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

13. The existing legislation allowed the application of the right to conscientious objection by health-care professionals regarding the protection of the life of an unborn child. The national programme on the care of children and youth covered reproductive health and rights to ensure quality care for pregnant women and newborns and to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates.

14. In the area of gender equality, the Government had taken measures to ensure conditions necessary 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 per cent of fathers in 2018. Women ministers constituted one third of the Government.

15. The delegation highlighted measures taken to protect women and children from violence. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family operated a free hotline for women and provided services for victims of domestic violence, including by supporting various projects implemented by non-governmental organizations. 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 implemented reforms to improve the social protection system.

16. A system of support for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities was in place to preserve and protect the identities and cultures of minorities. The Act on the fund for the promotion of the culture of persons belonging to national minorities, which had come into effect in 2017, was aimed at transforming the previous State system into a new one and providing effective support for cultural and arts initiatives of all persons belonging to national minorities.

17. The Government had approved a national programme on education, and its implementation plan, in 2018 to improve lifelong education for adults and the integration and inclusion of Roma children and children from socially disadvantaged families, and to ensure that the education system was interlinked with the needs of the national economy and labour market.

18. Housing remained a challenge, not only for Roma but also for low-income households. The State housing policy concept to 2020 had included an objective on making housing affordable.

19. The authorities had amended the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2017 to effectively prosecute all forms of criminal conduct having elements of extremism. A specialized 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 had 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 period 2016–2020.

22. The 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 programme to combat trafficking in persons for the period 2015–2018.

23. Viet Nam noted the administrative and legislative measures that Slovakia had taken to promote and protect human rights, but also noted that there 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 minority groups. It noted changes made to the criminal codes regarding racially motivated crimes and extremism.

25. Albania welcomed efforts to address issues related to the protection of minority groups, in particular integration of Roma. 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It remained concerned about discrimination against Roma. While noting the efforts of Slovakia to combat corruption, Australia remained concerned about reported levels of corruption.

29. Austria noted a decrease in violence against Roma as a result of the efforts of the Government. It also noted, however, that journalists had been subjected to lawsuits and to serious verbal insults, including by officials. Austria highlighted the importance of protecting 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 for the period 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 the prevalence of hate crimes, including against 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 crime of trafficking in persons. The extent of cooperation with special procedure 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 discrimination.
34. Benin noted with satisfaction reforms to improve the normative and institutional framework for human rights, including the amendment to the Act on Education and Training, and the creation of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for 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 the 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 crimes of extremism and racially motivated crime and the enactment of the Act on Victims of Crime, 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 integration of Roma.
38. Canada was concerned at the killing of a journalist and his fiancée in February 2018, and expressed hope that all the political leaders would reaffirm their determination to fight against corruption and defend freedom of expression and the independence of the media.
39. Chile recognized the efforts of the Government to develop national strategies in relation to gender equality and the elimination of racism, xenophobia and discrimination.
40. China welcomed the efforts of the Government to develop education, increase employment and combat racism, extremism and hate speech. It noted the adoption of the strategy for the integration of Roma for the period up to 2020.
41. Croatia commended the adoption of strategies on gender equality and on human rights. It noted the high representation of women in the judiciary, but was concerned about the underrepresentation of women in the parliament and the Government.
42. Cuba noted the progress made in improving the infrastructure and institutions of human rights, in the identification of challenges in the areas of gender equality, and of combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination against minorities, in particular 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 action plan for gender equality, as well as its constructive cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.
44. Czechia 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 that had been introduced into Slovak law, which had the effect of deterring women from accessing abortion services. It also noted that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights had been accredited with B status.
46. Ecuador noted the adoption of the Act on Criminal Responsibility of Legal Persons, the Act on Victims of Crime and national plans on combating extremism, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism 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 Slovakia to pursue its efforts to combat crimes of extremism.
48. El Salvador acknowledged the adoption of the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights and the creation of the Office of the Commissioner for

Persons with Disabilities. It urged Slovakia 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 its adoption of the national strategies for the protection and promotion of human rights, for gender equality and for Roma integration.

50. Finland commended Slovakia for its strong anti-discrimination legislation. It noted, however, that there was a need to monitor the legislation's 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 the State to further strengthen respect for human rights.

52. Georgia expressed appreciation of the voluntary pledges and commitments made by Slovakia to 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 for 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 about discrimination against Roma and about persistent hate speech, particularly against minorities, including 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 2014–2019.

55. The delegation of Slovakia stated that the State had 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 had been 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 had adopted an action plan on the prevention of all forms of discrimination for the period 2016–2019 to strengthen the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act and to support the efforts of public organizations and non-governmental organizations in combating discrimination. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights analysed the Act and put forward several recommendations on how to improve it.

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

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 had established working groups on some priority issues related to the judiciary. The appointment procedure for judges had been reformed.

59. The National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014–2019 had been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), despite the fact that Slovakia had not yet ratified the Convention. Amendments to several legal instruments had improved provisions for the protection of victims of domestic violence, including by extending the period covered by an expulsion order from 48 hours to up to 10 days. An important step was the establishment of a centre to coordinate the national response to gender-based and domestic violence, and a free, 24-hour helpline for women experiencing violence.

60. Slovakia had adopted the law on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in 2015 to strengthen the protection of the rights of the child and persons with disabilities, establishing an independent institution to receive and investigate individual cases and recommend remedies. The Commissioners were authorized to enter into civil proceedings as a third party and to inform the Government if a public body did not accept or implement their recommendations.

61. The Act on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises was 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 for Slovakia in the effective implementation of the recommendations received.

63. Hungary noted that Slovakia was a party to almost all of the core international human rights conventions. It also noted, however, that despite the efforts of Slovakia to address human rights challenges, there remained 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 taken to prevent all forms of discrimination, protect the rights of minorities and ethnic groups, combat human trafficking and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. It also noted, however, incidents of continued racial discrimination against Roma.

66. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights and the action plan on the prevention of all forms of discrimination. It welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

67. The 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 that regard.

69. Ireland welcomed the adoption of strategies and action plans addressing specific human rights issues, notably those relating to combating violence against women and protecting children from violence. It welcomed measures taken to address the education needs of children.

70. Israel commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2014–2019, the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2014–2019 and the approval of the action plan for preventing and eliminating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism for the period 2016–2018.

71. Italy 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 2014–2019, and the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights.

72. Jordan commended the adoption of a number of strategies, notably those 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 expressed support for the strengthening of the national legislative frameworks, ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, and the undertaking of practical measures in promoting human rights.

74. Libya commended Slovakia for the progress made in promoting human rights, in particular through the voluntary commitments it 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 Roma children with access to preschool education.
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 2014–2019. It welcomed the National Strategy for Gender Equality, and encouraged Slovakia to adopt measures to reduce maternal mortality.
77. Maldives commended the 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 the progress made since the previous review, in particular the adoption of national strategies on promoting human rights, gender equality and Roma integration, and the commitment of the Government regarding institutional protection of the rights of women.
79. Mongolia encouraged Slovakia to further strengthen its measures for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and to improve implementation of the relevant national action plans by allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources.
80. Montenegro commended Slovakia for establishing the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and for adopting the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights.
81. Myanmar noted the implementation of the 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 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including the establishment of a Committee on the rights of those persons. However, it noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons still faced discrimination.
83. Norway commended Slovakia for its efforts towards Roma inclusion. It recognized the acceptance by Slovakia of 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 the implementation of measures and strategies to eliminate violence against women and children, efforts in combating trafficking of persons, and the adoption of the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights.
86. Poland commended the newly adopted national legislation on 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, particularly those in the area of protecting children from violence.
88. The Republic of Korea acknowledged the measures to eliminate discrimination against minorities taken in the context of the 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 victims of trafficking in persons and the implementation of measures for social and legal protection of children and social care for victims of trafficking.

90. Romania commended the adoption of the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights and the measures taken to protect women and children against violence, to promote gender equality, to facilitate access to education and to protect the rights of minorities.

91. The Russian Federation expressed concern about discrimination against Roma and the high rate of unemployment among Roma, and expressed hope 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 protection and promotion of human rights and the rural development programme. It praised Slovakia for its financial contributions to the work of 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 2014–2019 and the National Strategy for Gender Equality.

94. Singapore acknowledged measures taken to protect the rights of minorities and marginalized communities, including Roma, to combat domestic violence, including by introducing the definition of that crime into the Act on Victims of Crime, and to combat trafficking in persons.

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 freedom of expression and to promote gender equality.

96. The delegation of Slovakia stated that the Government had established the position of the plenipotentiary for national minorities to improve protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The Government gave priority to improving the situation of Roma in various areas. It had adopted the national Roma integration strategy for the period up to 2020. The strategy consisted of seven action plans covering health, education, housing, employment, financial inclusion, non-discrimination, and approaches towards the majority population (an initiative of Roma integration through communication). In 2018, the Government had approved a decree that outlined 11 concrete steps to strengthen efforts to ensure the integration of the members of the Roma community into society.

97. In the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights, the State emphasized the importance of maintaining continuous dialogue with civil society. The office of the plenipotentiary for the development of civil society had been assigned to coordinate the engagement and participation of civil society in public affairs.

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

99. The Government had adopted legislative and other measures to address illegal sterilization. Since 2004, the Government had not received any information on or requests to investigate cases of illegal sterilization, which could indicate that the legislation had been effective. Health-care workers specialized in sexual and reproductive health were informed about the requirement of having consent for sterilization 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 document on the fight against extremism for the period 2015–2019 had defined the strategic priorities with regard to the prevention and elimination of radicalization, extremism and associated anti-society activities. Also, the authorities had adopted the Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia and

Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance for the period 2016–2018, and had established in 2011 the committee on preventing racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. The Committee included representatives from the central and regional governments, civil society and experts with an academic background. The authorities had adopted an amendment to the Criminal Code in 2017 to make investigations of extremist and racially motivated crimes more effective.

102. The Government did not interfere with the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by everyone, regardless of religious affiliation. In a decision handed down in 2010, the Constitutional Court had emphasized that members of non-registered religious organizations were entitled to rights equal to those of registered organizations. The authorities had provided an enabling environment for non-registered religious organizations, with the requirement that their activities complied with national legislation.

103. Spain commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2014–2019 and recognized the existence of the Plenipotentiary of Roma communities. It encouraged Slovakia to continue combating gender discrimination.

104. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps taken to combat discrimination, including the adoption of the action plan on 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons continued to face obstacles in the enjoyment of their rights.

106. Switzerland was concerned about discrimination against Roma and the deterioration of the situation with regard to 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 an amendment to the law on education 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 adoption of the national strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights and efforts to eliminate discrimination against Roma, noting that Roma children and Roma women continued to face discrimination in the areas of education and health care.

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 with regard to the rights of Roma, tackling corruption, reforming police governance and improving the effectiveness of the judiciary, and that Slovakia was committed to addressing those issues. It urged Slovakia to address issues of media freedom and to protect journalists.

113. The United States welcomed reforms to the selection process for judges and the adoption of a code of conduct for judges. It noted with concern violence against minorities, including Roma, and shortfalls in integrating Roma and combating discrimination.

114. Ukraine commended Slovakia for positive changes in the area of human rights, 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 had adopted a national programme for the development of education and training, covering the quality and availability of education, which would be

updated regularly depending on the status of the implementation. The programme was aimed at increasing inclusion and transitioning 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 preschool compulsory education and to increase the number of school personnel. Since 2016, the ministry responsible for education had been implementing a national project to ensure inclusive education in 130 primary schools and 50 kindergartens. The project was focused on preventing and eliminating segregation of Roma students and improving the competencies of professionals in identifying segregation in schools.

116. Since 2018, the Government had been implementing a new directive to prevent bullying and cyberbullying in schools.

117. The Government believed that it would be possible to achieve sustainable development for its people by ensuring security, prosperity and human rights. In ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Government had been aware of the need to remain vigilant, since those rights and freedoms had been under attack. The authorities had brought to justice eight individuals in connection with the investigation of the killing of Ján Kuciak, an investigative journalist. The Government continued to explore ways of improving freedom of the press and of expression and ensuring the 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 the sovereignty of its people. Holders of radical and extreme views had been attempting 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 situations.

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

120. Slovakia was also committed to multilateralism; the Government had cooperated with the international community to prevent and counter common threats that represented a danger to civilization, human rights and democracy. The engagement with the universal periodic review had reinforced the State's belief in meaningful international cooperation. Slovakia would pay the closest attention to the recommendations received. The Government was also pleased to use the opportunity to share its best practices and lessons learned 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) (Czechia) (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); 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 to**

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 Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), 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 Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Spain); Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Tunisia);

121.11 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

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, xenophobia and related intolerance (Belarus);

121.14 Take all efforts to implement voluntary pledges and commitments (Bhutan);

121.15 Take further measures on the successful implementation of voluntary pledges and commitments of Slovakia for 2018–2020 (Turkmenistan);

121.16 Complete the legislative procedures required to ensure that 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 national human rights institution is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with A status (Denmark); Complete the legislative procedure ensuring that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and can apply for re-accreditation with A status (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 Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (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 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 Centre 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 the 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 and 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's 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 United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 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 and 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 incitement to violence (Ecuador);

121.45 Continue efforts aimed at combating 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 Roma, Muslim 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 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 are 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 mechanisms 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 are investigated and prosecuted and that the perpetrators are 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Australia);**
- 121.70 **Increase efforts to guarantee the promotion and protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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 characteristics (Iceland);
- 121.77 Initiate again a plan to adopt a national action plan on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex equality (Norway);
- 121.78 Amend the Criminal Code to include specific reference to hate crimes based on sexual orientation and to ensure 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 perpetrators 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 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Czechia);
- 121.83 Adopt a national action plan to implement the 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 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Spain);
- 121.85 Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve 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 persons with disabilities, particularly psychological disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 121.88 Strengthen measures to prevent acts of torture and other inhuman 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 prosecutor’s office, 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

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 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 combating 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 the 2015–2018 period, including the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (Indonesia);**
- 121.110 **Further enhance its ongoing efforts to combat trafficking in persons and continue the support programme for the victims of human trafficking, particularly 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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 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 labour, 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 the 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 health-care services, particularly in improving access to health-care 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 at 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 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 socioeconomic opportunities for women (Malaysia);
- 121.140 Promote women's access to the labour market, eliminate horizontal and vertical imbalances 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 programme 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 the 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 principles 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 an inclusive environment for all persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities by promoting tolerance and ensure equal opportunities for their participation in decision-making processes (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, 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);

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 forms of discriminatory practices against Roma, in particular in access to education, housing, health care, 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 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 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 programmes 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 regard to 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 labour market.

Prosecute the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against Roma (Germany);

121.180 **Ensure an effective mechanism towards access to health care, education, adequate housing and an environment aimed at promoting social inclusion of Roma people (India);**

121.181 **Adopt concrete and effective measures to address and prevent discrimination against Roma women with regard to 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, while 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 programmes 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. Ľudovít 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.