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**Presentation on the adoption of the outcome of the UPR - Slovenia**

**Presented by H.E. Andrej Logar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations**

Mr President, Excellencies, dear colleagues and representatives of civil society,

It is a great pleasure for me to address this meeting, devoted to the adoption of the outcome of Slovenia's first Universal Periodic Review.

The interactive dialogue with Slovenia as part of the UPR Working Group took place on 16 February this year. The Slovenian delegation was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Samuel Žbogar. The commitment of my government to the UPR process was also demonstrated by the decision to have the delegation headed by a person of ministerial rank.

The preparation of the national UPR report was a comprehensive exercise that involved all relevant line ministries and government offices as well as civil society. The process was an opportunity to take stock of our internal human rights situation. The dialogue also enabled us to compare our assessment of the human rights situation in Slovenia with those of other UN Member States.

During the dialogue, our intention was to reply to all questions put forward by the various delegations in a substantive manner. With regard to the recommendations, we decided to take all of them back to Ljubljana for consideration and respond to each individually. During the interministerial process, Slovenia formulated its position on the basis of recommendations made and the Government adopted it on 18 March 2010. The Addendum to the Report of the WG on the UPR, with Slovenia's views, conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies was submitted to the OHCHR on 19 March 2010.

The Government agreed to accept 97 of the recommendations received, rejecting only five. For example, Slovenia cannot accept the recommendation to pass a law on domestic violence due to the national criminal legislative system. In Slovenia, criminal offences and sanctions are defined by the Criminal Code and the General Offences Act.

Slovenia cannot accept the recommendation on specialised family courts, as it plans to gradually and systematically strengthen the existing family departments at district court level and facilitate the creation of new departments if the need for this is independently established by the judiciary. The introduction of new courts with sole jurisdiction over family relations/children might result in new court backlogs and/or lengthy trials.

In addition, Slovenia cannot accept the recommendation on the strengthening of the status of the German-speaking community in Slovenia. The rights of this community are adequately protected, both by a bilateral agreement and the Convention between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Co-operation in the Fields of Culture, Education and Science for the period 2008–2012. Members of the German-speaking community enjoy the full exercise of their individual rights to maintain their national, linguistic, and cultural characteristics in accordance with Articles 14, 61, and 62 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. The Government will continue to implement the adopted measures in order to promote, develop and preserve the community's ethnic and national identities.

Slovenia could not make a definitive statement regarding the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers. Most of the rights contained in this Convention are already guaranteed by Slovenia to migrant workers and their family members in its labour market, which is in compliance with the Convention's objectives.

One other recommendation was not accepted, since it was unclear and contradictory.

Mr President,

As already mentioned, all other recommendations were accepted and many of them are already in the process of implementation. One such example, since February, relates to the efforts of the Government to improve the situation of the Roma community. In March this year, the Government adopted the new National Programme of Measures for the Roma, for the period 2010-2015. The document contains measures for the key areas in which the Roma still face discrimination or in which specific, positive measures are needed, such as education, health care, employment, living conditions, culture and the fight against discrimination. The implementation of the above Programme is in progress and is to be monitored once a year.

Slovenia has issued a standing invitation to all UN special procedures. The first request for a country visit was received last year. The visit by the independent expert on access to safe drinking water and sanitation took place between 24 and 28 May this year.

Mr President,

By way of conclusion, I would like to underline the importance of a firm follow-up mechanism. It was decided that the existing Interministerial Working Commission on Human Rights, which also includes representatives of civil society organisations, including NGOs and academics, would monitor the follow-up to the recommendations received.

Another part of the follow-up process is an analysis of the existing institutional protection of human rights in Slovenia. The UPR process highlighted some areas of human rights that could be covered in a more efficient and comprehensive manner. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has initiated a broad discussion on how to improve institutional capacities for a more proactive promotion of human rights in Slovenia.

**Concluding remarks:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and observers of the Human Rights Council for their interest and active contributions today.

Allow me to reply to some of the questions raised:

*/op.; iz addenduma, poročila delovne skupine in iz govora ministra/*

Mr President,

Slovenia is about to conclude its mandate within the Human Rights Council. Since the very beginning, our country has been a staunch supporter of the Universal Periodic Review. This new and very innovative mechanism has become indispensable in addressing the human rights situation in all UN Member States. A good connection has been made with special procedures and UN treaty bodies as well as regional human rights mechanisms. There are some issues that need to be improved, such as the quality of recommendations and their implementation. Slovenia will continue to work hard to strengthen international norms, standards and mechanisms for their implementation, including the UPR.

Thank you for your attention.