



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the  
**32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Viet Nam**

Geneva, 22 January 2019

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Mr President,

Slovenia welcomes the delegation of Viet Nam and would like to thank them for presentation of their national report.

We would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Change the definition of the age of the child to under-18 years in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. Ratify, without reservations, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

We note with appreciation progress made in addressing human rights issues in Viet Nam since the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, including through the adoption of various new policy measures. However we are concerned that the new Law on Children which was adopted in 2016 is not in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Progress has been made in setting up a strong legal and policy frameworks for gender equality. At the same time we have noted that effective coordination is lacking and that there are not enough resources allocated for its implementation.

Slovenia remains concerned about the reports of limiting freedom of expression and of arbitrary arrests, detentions, intimidation, harassment and attacks against human rights defenders as well as about information that civil society can not operate independently.

Thank you.

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Advance question:

- What concrete steps have been taken to implement recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which among others called upon Viet Nam to create an enabling environment for the free establishment and functioning of civil society organizations, and to provide protection against harassment, arrest and detention of human rights defenders, including by prosecuting those responsible for such acts?