



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the

**33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Equatorial Guinea**

Geneva, 13 May 2019

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Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Equatorial Guinea for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make to the Government of Equatorial Guinea the recommendation to:

- **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.**

Slovenia is glad to see that certain measures have been taken and efforts made of the Government of Equatorial Guinea to improve the human rights situation in the country from the previous review. We appreciate the efforts made to empower women and girls and to protect and promote the rights of the child.

Although some commendable actions have been implemented to improve the situation of persons with disabilities, the adherence to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights remains unanswered.

Slovenia is also concerned about the reports on human rights violations in the reviewed period. We deplore the ongoing restrictions on freedom of association, attacks and intimidation of journalists and bloggers and the general disempowering environment for freedom of expression and independent media agencies. We are deeply concerned that threats faced by human rights defenders and the frequent violent repression of peaceful assemblies do not cease.

We wish the Government of Equatorial Guinea every success in the UPR process.

Thank you.