



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
36th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Belarus

Geneva, 2 November 2020

Madame President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the delegation of Belarus for the national report, its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

- to take immediate actions to improve the overall situation of the fundamental freedoms, of the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, freedom of the press
- to implement and allow full access to the UN Special Rapporteur in Belarus and to cooperate with other UN Special Rapporteurs and the OSCE,
- to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and immediately take appropriate measures to release all political prisoners in the country.

Slovenia is alarmed about the aftermath of the electoral process in Belarus and further increase of incidents relating to hate speech and hate crime, specifically targeting most vulnerable groups.

Still, Slovenia acknowledges the progress made in its international obligations with enforcement of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, as well as with the country visit of The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in November 2018.

While Belarus is following the global trend towards phasing out the death penalty, we regret the lack of progress made in this regard since the second UPR cycle. The Special Rapporteur on Belarus noted that relatives of persons who had been executed were kept ignorant of the time and circumstances of the death of their closed ones, bodies were not handed over to the families and no details of places of burial were given. We therefore urge the State to introduce torture as a separate and specific criminal act in its legislation and adopt all the elements of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and to ensure that penalties for the crime of torture are proportionate to the gravity of the crime.

Thank you.