

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**38th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Seychelles**

*Geneva, 10 May 2021*

Excellencies,

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

Slovenia commends Seychelles for establishing the Ministry of Family Affairs to work on gender-based violence and for adopting the Domestic Violence Bill in May 2020.

Slovenia remains concerned about the fact that the Government of Seychelles did not maintain its commitment on the continuity of the EU-financed shelter for battered women via the construction of a permanent shelter. The need for such a shelter is felt even more strongly in a pandemic context, as lockdowns have a negative impact on the situation of women, namely on gender-based violence.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

* to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you!