

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**40th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Uganda**

*Geneva, 27 January 2022*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to thank Uganda for presentation of its report, as well as country’s commitment to the UPR process.

We commend Uganda for progress made since the last UPR review, including strengthening of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights, and Equal Opportunities. We also welcome efforts of Uganda in the fight against HIV/AIDS and its commitment to a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, challenges remain. We are concerned with the situation of gender equality and the empowerment of women, which has exacerbated also due to Covid-19 pandemics. We have noted that schools have remained largely closed in Uganda for almost two years until January 2022, which has affected especially girls.

Slovenia would like to recommend Uganda:

* To strengthen the legal framework to address gaps around sexual harassment, marital rape, child marriage, the definition of rape and consent, and evidentiary and procedural protections for survivors, amongst other areas.
* To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We wish Uganda every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.