

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**43 rd Session of the UPR Working Group - Review of Mali**

*Geneva, 2 May 2023*

Excellencies,

Slovenia would like to thank the delegation of Mali for their presentation today, as well as country’s commitment to the UPR process. We commend Mali for progress made since the last UPR review, including positive steps towards the enhancement of women’s participation in political life.

We would like to express our serious concern about the continued deterioration of the security situation, which considerably impacts the rights of women and children. The enduring trend of sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking of children remains worrying. Girls are continuously subjected to harmful cultural practices, notably female genital mutilation and child marriage.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** Mali to:

* Combat impunity and actively support access to justice for all, especially women and children, by taking appropriate and effective measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence, in particular sexual violence and trafficking.
* Promote and protect the human rights of women and girls by adopting specific laws criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence.
* Adopt all necessary measures to combat effectively trafficking of children and eliminate child labour.

Thank you.