

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**43rd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Burundi**

*Geneva, 4 May 2023*

Mr President,

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

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendation:

- to ensure that allegations of violence against women are thoroughly investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice;

- to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Slovenia took note of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and would like to encourage Burundi to step up its efforts to establish an effective national preventive mechanism regarding torture.

Slovenia remains concerned about the reports on the situation of human rights defenders and members of the human rights organizations who are critical of the government. They operate in a climate of fear of reprisals. We call on Burundi to ensure safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders and journalists. We also call on Burundi to release all unjustly imprisoned human rights defenders, journalists and political prisoners.

Thank you.