**Intervention of Slovenia**

**Review of Zambia**

**28th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 13 November 2017**

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to commend the delegation of Zambia for their presentation today and their commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to **recommend** to the Government of Zambia to:

- ensure separation of children from adults detained in police stations and prisons,

- raise minimum age of criminal responsibility, and provide adequate protection of children victims and witnesses of crime during trial,

- ensure countrywide the implementation of the Marriage Act establishing the legal age for marriage as 21 years of age.

We would like to note with appreciation of some positive measures taken by Zambia, including the introduction of proactive policies and strategies for the enrolment, retention and progression of girls at the primary school level, investment in early childhood development and education, and promotion of empowerment of women.

However, we remain concerned over high rates of under-5, infant and neonatal mortality, the persistence of child marriage practice, and on high number of teenage pregnancies, and unsafe abortions.

Slovenia is also concerned by the reports on the high prevalence of HIV/Aids among children and adolescent,s in particular girls, and on the increased number of children victims of commercial exploitation, including prostitution and child labour.

Furthermore we are concerned that the public environment relating to LGBTI persons remains hostile and that Penal Code criminalizes homosexual relations. We wish to encourage Zambia to abolish the death penalty in law or in practice.

Thank you!