



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the  
**29<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Burundi**

Geneva, 18 January 2018

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Mr President,

Slovenia appreciates commitment of Burundi to the UPR process and encourages the Government of Burundi to extend this commitment also to the OHCHR office in their capital.

We would like to take note with appreciation of some positive steps taken by Burundi to promote and protect human rights in the country including by ratifying OP CAT and CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

We would like to make the following **recommendations**:

1. to fulfil its obligations and fully cooperate with UN mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry set up by this body;
2. to strengthen the capacity of criminal judiciary and enhance access to legal assistance for survivors of gender-based and sexual violence, without discrimination on any ground, in order to promote a system of effective justice, prevention and response to gender-based and sexual violence;
3. to pursue its efforts to eliminate discrimination in education against girls, children with special needs, internally displaced persons, refugees, children of the Batwa minority and children with albinism.

Mr. President, my country remains concerned over human rights situation in the country in general, especially by reports *on restriction of freedom of expression; on violence, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders; on discrimination and prosecution of LGBTI community; and on the exacerbation of gender-based and sexual violence.*

We call on Burundi to increase its commitment and address these issues.

Thank you.