

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**39th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Antigua and Barbuda**

*Geneva, 8 November 2021*

Madame President,

Slovenia wishes to commend Antigua and Barbuda for its presentation today and its commitment to the UPR process. We welcome recent adoption of a national child protection policy and the commitment of the government to strengthen its capacity for protecting the rights of children in the country.

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

* to establish an official moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its full abolition and to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR,
* to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Although we note considerable work undertaken by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the UN Children's Fund since 2018, corporal punishment remains acceptable in the home, alternative care settings, day care, schools and penal institutions. We would therefore like to reiterate our past recommendation that the common law right to punish children should be explicitly repealed and prohibition of all corporal punishment enacted in all settings where adults have authority over children.

Thank you.