

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**40th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of South Sudan**

*Geneva, 31 January 2022*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to commend South Sudan for its presentation today and the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia would like to make the following recommendations:

* To prosecute individuals responsible for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including conflict-related sexual and gender based violence;
* To strengthen the efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by eradication of harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage;
* To establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolish the death penalty.

We welcome the accession to the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in the Armed Conflict and the development of the Action Plan on Children Affected by Armed Conflict. We call upon South Sudan to continue its efforts to protect children from recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

While we took note of several positive steps and measures that have been adopted in combating sexual and gender based violence, including the establishment of a Juvenile and Gender Based Violence Court in 2019, we remain concerned that sexual and gender based violence remains wide spread.

Thank you.