

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**40th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Togo**

*Geneva, 24 January 2022*

Excellencies,

Slovenia wishes to thank delegation of Togo for their presentation today, as well as country’s dedication to the UPR process.

We commend Togo for ratifying the protocol on the rights of older persons of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which is a step forward to improving the living conditions of older persons in Togo.

However, we are concerned over several human rights issues that persist in Togo, including reports of arbitrary detention, restrictions on freedom of assembly, as well as criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual conduct. Despite progress and efforts made by Togolese authorities, gender-based violence remains persistent.

Slovenia would like to recommend to Togo to:

* sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
* consider adopting a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, in the public and private domain;
* take measures to protect sexual minorities from all forms of violence and marginalization.

We wish Togo every success in this UPR process.

I thank you.