

UPR of Slovenia

16 February 2010

Statement by Norway

Norway welcomes the Slovenian delegation and we thank you for the presentation of the comprehensive national report and answers given to questions sent in advance. We appreciate the active role Slovenia plays in improving the UN human rights machinery.

Norway strongly believes that the active participation of civil society is essential to a meaningful UPR process. We recommend that Slovenia establish an effective and inclusive process to follow up on UPR recommendations.

We welcome the progress made to remedy the injustice done to non-ethnic residents on the basis of restrictive citizenship laws introduced in 1991. We recommend Slovenia to adopt legislative and other measures designed to include all “erased” persons irrespective of where they currently reside.

Slovenia has introduced important measures to improve the status of women. Still women continue to be at a disadvantage in society, particularly with regards to their involvement in decision-making, and the limited number of women in high-level public positions. Measures against unequal treatment of women exist formally but concern should be expressed at the lack of results achieved. We recommend Slovenia to strengthen its efforts to increase the number of women participating in political life, in particular at the national level, and to revise the national Assembly Elections Act to accelerate political advancement of women in the next elections.

We welcome the entry into force of the new Penal Code 2008 defining domestic violence as a specific criminal offence and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2008, defining different forms of domestic violence and providing for protection of victims. However, we are concerned by the prevalence of violence against women and girls and cases of women murdered by their intimate partners. We recommend Slovenia to address the issue of gender based violence and to develop a comprehensive strategy or action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

We note that Slovenia has given priority to the promotion of the rights of the child. We recommend that Slovenia adopt the latest draft amendments to the Marriage and Family Relations Act which equalize same-sex unions with other family unions, ban corporal punishment of children and add a provision that prohibits other forms of demeaning treatment of children, such as psychological violence.