



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
30th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Uzbekistan

Geneva, 9 May 2018

Mr President,

At the outset we would like to welcome the gradual improvement of the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. We particularly note the increased readiness of the Uzbek authorities to cooperate with the civil society organizations in strengthening of the judicial system and raising protection and awareness of citizen's rights.

Slovenia pays increased attention to gender equality both nationally and internationally. In this regard we note that gender equality in Uzbekistan lacks proper progress.

We would also like to address the system of cotton production and human rights violations deriving therefrom, including reports of forced labor, hazardous working conditions, child labor and lack of proper independent monitoring procedure.

Therefore we would like to **recommend** to Uzbekistan:

1. To adopt new legislation on gender equality, in line with the CEDAW Convention, and to prepare a comprehensive national action plan to promote gender equality and improve the role of women in political, economic, public and other spheres of life.
2. To step up its efforts to improve the working conditions in the cotton production sector and to strengthen safeguards against the use of forced and particularly child labor.
3. To grant unrestricted permission to national and international civil society organizations to freely conduct independent monitoring of the alleged forced mobilization of citizens for cotton picking.

We wish to Uzbekistan a successful UPR.

Thank you Mr President.