

## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32<sup>nd</sup> Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Slovakia

#### Statement by Australia

Australia congratulates Slovakia on its election to the UN Human Rights Council. We look forward to working with you to uphold and advance human rights norms.

We note that since 2014, Slovakia has ratified a number of important human rights instruments. **Australia recommends Slovakia complete the legislative procedures required to ensure its National Centre for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.**

Australia welcomes Slovakia's efforts to protect the human rights of vulnerable populations including LGBTI peoples under its *National Strategy for Human Rights Protection and Promotion*. **Australia recommends Slovakia continue to promote and protect the rights of its LGBTI community.**

Australia remains concerned about reported levels of social discrimination against Roma communities, including in the justice, medical and education systems. **Australia recommends Slovakia accelerate efforts to implement its National Roma Integration Strategy to reduce poverty and address discrimination and segregation of Roma communities.**

We recognise Slovakia's efforts to address corruption through the establishment in 2017 of an Office for the Fight Against Corruption. Nevertheless, concerns remain about reported levels of corruption in Slovakia, the independence of the judiciary and media freedom. **Australia recommends Slovakia take all necessary steps to strengthen anti-corruption laws, ensure independence of judiciary and protect the rights and safety of journalists.**