**Survey questionnaire from the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – replies of the Slovak Republic**

**IV. Questionnaire for States**

**(Communications and Visit Requests of the Special Rapporteur)**

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| ***Remarks:*** * *Please* ***keep your responses concise****, either directly in the space provided below or in a separate document.*
* *In the absence of translation services,* ***please provide responses in English only, if possible****.*
* ***Please submit your response by 15 October 2020****.*
* *All responses provided by Governments will be* ***published on the mandate’s webpage****:*

*(https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/torture/srtorture/pages/srtortureindex.aspx).*  |

**A. Procedures for the processing of official communications and requests**

**Question:** Please describe the procedures applied by your Government in responding to / following-up on official communications transmitted by the Special Rapporteur, in line with the responsibilities of States outlined in para 2 of Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/43/L.30 of 31 March 2020, including the initiation of measures of prevention, investigation, prosecution and redress as may be required under applicable international law.

**Response:**

*‘Allegation letters’ (AL) and ‘urgent appeals’ (UA) on specific alleged specific acts or risks of torture or ill-treatment:*

*‘Other letters’ (OL) relating to current or envisaged legislation, regulation or policy measures:*

*Country visit requests:*

The Slovak Republic has not received either a request of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Slovakia, or any urgent calls or other letters regarding any existing or planned legislation, regulation or political measures.

In March 2001 Slovakia submitted a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures and announced that it will always accept requests to visit from all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

The only visit of a special rapporteur to Slovakia was in November 2000. Slovakia visited UN SR on independence of judges. The special rapporteur during his visit met representatives of the government, parliament, jurisdiction and civil society. Slovak authorities were fully cooperative with the SR.

**B. Interaction regarding ‘Urgent Appeals’, ‘Allegation Letters’ and ‘Other Letters’**

**Question:** How does your Government self-evaluate its interactions with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur relating to official communications on specific concerns or allegations regarding torture or ill-treatment during the past four years (1 November 2016 until 31 October 2020)?

**Remarks:** For your response, **please choose one or several options from the four-step classification system explained below**, which builds on Human Rights Council in resolution A/HRC/43/L.30 of 31 March 2020, and on universally recognized international legal obligations arising from the absolute and non-derogable prohibition of torture and ill-treatment:

1. **“Fully cooperative”:** (a) Full and expeditious responses, which (b) supply all information requested and (c) ensure proper follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the Special Rapporteur including, as a minimum, (d) evidence for the initiation of all measures of prevention, investigation, prosecution and redress required by applicable international law.
2. **“Partially cooperative”:** Responses which fail to meet one or several of the criteria listed under 1 (a) – (d) above, but which have entailed some level of constructive dialogue between the Government and the Special Rapporteur.
3. **“Non-responsive”:** Failure or refusal to respond to the official communications transmitted by the Special Rapporteur.
4. **“No communication received”:** During the past four years (2017-2020), no official communication has been transmitted by the Special Rapporteur.

Please explain your Government’s response and, where appropriate, describe any challenges, concerns, grievances or other causes, which may be preventing your Government from achieving a “fully cooperative” interaction.

**Response:**

Slovakia is prepared fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture~~.~~

In 2018 the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) completed the 6th periodical visit of the Slovak Republic. In 2019 the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted Resolution No. 283/2019 on fulfilment of tasks for implementation of recommendations of the CPT. The document was prepared by the Ministry of Justice, with strong cooperation of the Ministry of Interior. In relation to the fulfilment of the CPT Committee’s recommendations and with reference to the government resolution, the Order No. 111/2019 of the President of the Police Force has been prepared and published.

In April 2020, the President of the Police Force issued Order No. PPZ-OKS3 2020/001509-359 to ensure adequate compliance with CPT principles on treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

**C. Interaction regarding Country Visit Requests**

**Question:** How does your Government self-evaluate its interactions with the mandate in response to official requests transmitted by the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit during the past four years during the past four years (1 November 2016 until 31 October 2020)?

**Remarks:** For your response, **please choose one or several options from the four-step classification system explained below**, which builds on Human Rights Council in resolution A/HRC/43/L.30 of 31 March 2020:

1. **“Fully cooperative”:** During the past four years (1 November 2016 until 31 October 2020), the Government has extended either a standing invitation or an bilateral invitation to the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit in full compliance with the terms of reference of the mandate, **and** the visit: (a) has taken place, or (b) has been scheduled, or (c) has been postponed or declined by the Special Rapporteur for reasons not in the responsibility of the Government.
2. **“Partially cooperative”:** During the past four years (1 November 2016 until 31 October 2020), the Special Rapporteur has transmitted one or several official country visit requests, which have not received a favourable response, but which have entailed some level of constructive dialogue between the Government and the Special Rapporteur.
3. **“Non-responsive”:** Failure or refusal to respond to the official country visit requests transmitted by the Special Rapporteur.
4. **“No request received”:** During the past four years (1 November 2016 until 31 October 2020), no official country visit request has been transmitted by the Special Rapporteur. Please explain your Government’s response and, where appropriate, describe any challenges, concerns, grievances or other causes, which may be preventing your Government from achieving a “fully cooperative” interaction with the mandate as expected by the Council.

**Response:**

No official country visit request has been transmitted by the Special Rapporteur.

**D. State recommendations / requests**

**Question:** Please describe and explain any measures which should be taken, and by which authority, mechanism or institution, in order for your Government to achieve a “fully cooperative” interaction on official communications and visit requests transmitted by the Special Rapporteur, in line with resolution A/HRC/43/L.30 of 31 March 2020 and applicable norms of international law.

**Response:**

In order to eliminate such negative phenomena as torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, methodology jobs are performed and members of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic attend regular trainings focused on prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The focus is, inter alia, on the implementation of recommendations of the CPT and the Committee Against Torture (CAT), by improving behaviour of members of the Police Force when acting in their official capacity and using coercive means.