

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**50th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on situation in Mariupol**

Geneva, 16 June 2022

Mr. President,

Slovenia would like to thank the High Commissioner for her update.

Slovenia remains gravely concerned over the news coming from Mariupol. Reports, we have been receiving in the last months on the developments in the besieged city, the civilian suffering and deaths that go into thousands, are horrifying. Atop of the severe humanitarian crisis, the remaining civilian population in the city is now also facing a health crisis in the form of cholera outbreak. We urge Russia to ensure basic existential and health needs of the remaining civilians and to allow those willing to leave a voluntary and safe passage out of the city.

Moreover, we are appalled by the growing evidence of atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces. Reports of sexual violence against not only women and girls, but also men and boys, are increasing. International community needs to increase its support for international and national investigations and help close the impunity gap and ensure accountability these horrific crimes.

Slovenia sees the urgent need for adoption of the *Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes*, known also as the MLA initiative. The adoption of the Convention would substantially enhance capacities of States for domestic prosecution of atrocity crimes aiming to end impunity for their perpetrators.

We reiterate our call on Russia to cease its use of force against Ukraine immediately. We continue to support Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you.