

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**77th Session of the UN General Assembly**

**3rd Committee**

**Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

New York, 7 October 2022

Madame Special Representative,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement. We thank you for being with us today. We see your recent report as an important contribution to greater understanding of linkages between climate crisis and violence against children.

As children’s (and environment) rights advocates, we truly welcome your call to learn lessons from the Covid 19 pandemic and climate crisis, and to invest more into "an inclusive, resilient and safe recovery for all children worldwide". We also welcome the emphasis you are putting on prevention.

My country is worried over your report’s findings, especially how the overlaping crises act as a threat multiplier for children's exposure to different forms of violence. When creating policies, we, the member states, should also take into account the fact that the poorest children are hit the hardest by the climate crisis.

My country strongly concurs with the notion of inclusion of children in our solution finding efforts. In Slovenia, climate change awareness raising begins already in preschool, where children are taught how to sort out waste ahead of recycling process.

Madame Special Representative,

Before concluding my remarks, I was wondering if you could share some thoughts on how could the newly established right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment best serve or protect children from violence?

Thank you.