

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**3rd Committee**

**Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner**

**(represented by ASG Brands Kehris)**

New York, 13 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement and thanks the Assistant Secretary-General for her presentation today.

Madame Assistant Secretary-General,

Let me begin by reiterating Slovenia's strong support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We wish to express our gratitude to the former High Commissioner Michele Bachellet. Slovenia deeply values her professional and personal commitment to the work of the Office, as well as her vocal support for the global recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We also congratulate Mr Volker Türk on his appointment as the new High Commissioner and assure him of Slovenia's full support.

Madame Assistant Secretary-General,

We would like to emphasize the important work of the Office not only in Geneva and New York, but most importantly on the ground. In developing our response, we must take advantage of the vast amount of information and knowledge of the Office. We need an Office with a strong voice - on preventive role of human rights, on promotion of human rights and on justice and accountability for gross violations of international human rights law. The reports and assessments of the Office are indispensable.

Madame Assistant Secretary-General,

Gross human rights violations are important indicators of possible future conflicts. In that sense, I am interested in your office's exchanges with the Security Council and your recommendations on further improvements of this exchange.

My country is looking forward to continued engagement with the Office and reaffirm our strong support for its independence. We call upon on all States to cooperate with the Office, including through full and unrestricted access as this is a prerequisite for engagement in sincere, open, inclusive and transparent dialogue.

Thank you!