

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**3rd Committee**

**Interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

New York, 21 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

*As a member of the core group on human rights and the environment,* Slovenia highly values your important work and advocacy on environmental issues. *We hope for continued constructive engagement with your mandate in the future.*

We are glad we have hosted you on your recent country visit to Slovenia in September, and we await the publication of your report at the Human Rights Council in March 2023.

Slovenia is a long-standing supporter of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. We believe that human rights must be placed at the centre of any measures tackling environmental crisis. *Slovenia recognizes the right of our citizens to a healthy environment in the constitution. We have a strong environmental legislation, which puts people at the centre of protection.*

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

The adoption of the two resolutions on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, in the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly, was indeed a historic moment.

Slovenia is proud to have been a part of the process of bringing the two resolutions forward. We believe we should now continue our work on the implementation of the right *to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment* and its mainstreaming throughout the UN system.

We also need to raise the level of responsible conduct on regional and local level. In this context we welcome the call of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE to its 46 members to actively consider recognizing the *human* right *to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment* at the national level.

*We are counting on future cooperation with your mandate with an aim to make this right meaningful for the rights holders and impactful on the ground.*

Thank you.