

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 for Children in Armed Conflict, Ms Virginia Gamba**

New York, 7 October 2022

Madame Special representative,

while fully aligning with the EU statement, let me thank you for important work done on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the children in armed conflict mandate. The road behind the mandate is long but paved with great success along the way.

The report, together with the study on gender dimensions of grave violations against children in armed conflict, highlights the severity of multiple violations against children, especially girls. We can only echo that perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable.

In your report you mentioned that among other factors, gender inequality context and harmful social norms play a determining factor in how children are exposed and subjected to violations and abuses by parties to conflict. However, while sexual violence disproportionately affects girls, boys are affected as well. How can we best protect children in armed conflict, in particular girls where gender inequality context and harmful social norms prevail?

One area where we think further work would be very useful is inclusion of the climate perspective into peace-building and peace-keeping and its obvious nexus to the protection of children.

Madame Special representative,

Slovenia has a long tradition of supporting programmes, projects and activities to protect children in armed conflicts and to provide children affected by armed conflicts with psychosocial and physical rehabilitation. Finally, allow me to reiterate Slovenia’s full support for your work and your mandate.

Thank you.