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Statement by

**Ms Saša Jurečko**

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the United Nations**

at the

**ECOSOC Special Meeting**

**Social and economic measures to prevent genocide, war crimes,**

**ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

New York, 24 January 2023

Madam President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and Statement by the Group of friends of R2P.

Many outbreaks of violence, conflict and mass atrocities have roots in long-standing discrimination, gaps in socio-economic development, inequalities, social exclusion, environmental degradation and denial of human rights. The role of ECOSOC in addressing these factors and support early action is invaluable.

I would like to highlight three points in this regard:

First, on the link between peace, development and human rights:

There is little doubt that there is no justice without peace and that there can be no peace without justice, development and respect for human rights. Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the most effective way of preventing atrocity crimes.

By addressing the link between peace, development and human rights and integrating the promotion of sustainable development in peacebuilding processes we can create the basis for rebuilding and reconciling communities.

Second, on prevention:

Preventive action, also structural prevention of atrocities, including the rule of law and strengthening the role of global and national human rights systems should continue to be our key investment.

Protecting populations from mass atrocity is Slovenia’s priority. We welcome last year's Annual Report on the Responsibility to Protect by the Secretary General that brings attention to the need to prioritize the protection of children and youth from atrocity crimes and highlights prevention as the most important part of protection.

Slovenia believes that Human rights education, is an important tool in prevention. .

Through “Our Rights” project and teaching materials, Slovenia has enabled human rights education for more than 280.000 children around the world, which helps to foster tolerance and understanding of diversity in societies.

Third, on accountability:

There is a strong link between accountability and the prevention of atrocity crimes. Justice and accountability can break the vicious link between systemic impunity and the recurrence of atrocity crimes. States have the primary responsibility to deliver justice and accountability, and prevent violations and crimes.

To conclude:

Slovenia as a first time member of ECOSOC looks forward to contribute to its important work in addressing the global challenges we are facing today.

I thank you.

