

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

under

**Agenda Item 25 - Social Development**

**Third Committee of the 77h Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 29 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovenia aligns with the statement made by the European Union.

Slovenia has always been an advocate for stronger protection of the rights of older persons. In response to our own demographic challenges, we have adopted an Active Aging Strategy, which isbased on the concept of active and healthy ageing and on the life course perspective. Slovenia established a Council for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Cooperation as the body responsible for the implementation of the strategy***.***

Active aging is promoted through various measures, among them also through the Third Age University of Slovenia, which is a voluntary educational movement and aims at providing access to education and culture for older persons. Moreover, our country also dedicates a special emphasis on intergenerational cooperation. The Government initiated the establishment and is co-financing multi-generational centres. Its activities are of preventive nature and are intended to enable social inclusion of different groups or to prevent social exclusion

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovenia welcomes the important work of various UN human rights mechanisms, in particular the relevant treaty bodies that have made efforts to address the issues affecting older persons***.*** However we feel that a number of issues relevant for older persons do not have appropriate coverage by the existing human rights framework. Therefore, Slovenia clearly sees the need for better implementation of existing norms and standards, as well as a pertinent need to upgrade the respective international legal framework. Strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons need to become part of our efforts to building back more equal and age-friendly society, and thus fulfil our promise of leaving no one behind.

Mr. Chairperson,

*Irrespective of age, we should strive to improve wellbeing of every member of our societies. First and foremost this begins with providing a platform for every voice to be heard. I am honoured to welcome Slovenian youth delegate Žiga Ciglarič, who will deliver part of the statement on behalf of the Slovenian youth.*

Mr Chairperson,

I address you today as the United Nations Youth Delegate of the Republic Slovenia and I feel honoured to address you in person after two years.

Youth participation is envisaging a strong downfall within the scope of preserving our cultural heritage. In my country we are faced with a severe decline of the youth joining in cultural and other societies of volunteer work. Sadly, due to this many societies stopped with their activities, and therefore the traditions of our ancestors, their respective stories and our memory of them are endangered.

The readiness of the youth to take up an active role within the political and activists´ sphere has reached the lowest point in the last decades. Fear of discrimination, lack of mentor programs, and a public negative opinion on the engagement of young people in this area, are all factors that prevent the youth from raising their voices.

Mr Chairperson,

if we do not encourage young people to involve themselves more actively in these areas, the memory of our past, and the future of the world itself will be at stake. Of a world, where we young people will have to live in the future. At this point allow me to express my appreciation to the last steps of the UN to include the youth to a greater extent, yet it is not enough. In the name of us, young people, I call on you to include us even more within your decision-making, and first and foremost we plea that you encourage your member states to do the same.

Thank you.