

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 minority issues,**

**Mr Fernand de Varennes**

New York, 20 October 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr Special Rapporteur,

Slovenia fully aligns with the EU statement *and would like to assure you of our continued support to your mandate.*

As we mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration *on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,* let me reassure you of our longstanding commitment to promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, on national, regional and international level.

Our efforts include activities in the regional human rights organizations as well as our commitment as a member of the core group on minorities at the UN Human Rights Council, *together with Austria and Mexico*. *Slovenia is also a supporter of regional minority forums, which shed a light on the particular minority issues in specific regions.*

Mr Special Rapporteur,

Protection of minorities’ rights needs to be further mainstreamed in the work of the United Nations.

Your work on the minorities in conflict situations has been of particular importance. While respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities decisively impacts peace and stability and their protection reduces the risk of violent conflict, persons belonging to minorities also play an important part in the conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding initiatives.

Slovenia commends your focus on addressing discrimination, exclusion and other violations of human rights of minority women and girls during your field trips. Women and girls often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Mr Special Rapporteur,

How could we reinforce the role and meaningful participation of minority women in the prevention of ethnic conflicts, peacebuilding and reconciliation?

Thank you.