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Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**UN General Assembly**

**The situation in Afghanistan**

New York, 10 November 2022

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to add a few points in our national capacity.

Allow me first to thank the German team for their efforts in facilitating the process leading to the text of the resolution. This has a particular significance this year in reflecting the change in circumstances on the ground.

I would also like to express Slovenia's strong support to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. It is important for UNAMA to maintain active presence in the country and for all actors in Afghanistan to ensure safe and secure environment for its work, as mandated by the Security Council Resolution 2626 (2022) od 17 March 2022.

Among the issues that Slovenia remains extremely concerned about are challenging humanitarian situation and hardship that the population of Afghanistan is facing, that is worsened by increasing restrictions of human rights, especially those of women and girls. All humanitarian operations need safe and unhindered access to the entire territory to provide urgent assistance to all those in need.

Human rights situation in Afghanistan has worsened dramatically in particular for women and girls. We call for full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in public life, their right to education, work and employment, access to health care and services, as well as their rights to move, express and assemble.

Mr. President,

In the past year, Slovenia has contributed close to half a million euros for humanitarian needs of the Afghan people, through a number of international partners, UN funds and agencies including UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP and ICRC.

Slovenia has also maintained a continuous presence in Afghanistan since 2014 through ITF Enhancing Human Security, a humanitarian, non-profit organization established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. This organization has since carried out different projects, predominately in the field of mine action, and despite complex circumstances on the ground, has remained present in the Afghanistan also after August 2021.

Slovenia is an active donor also in the field of victim assistance and in the health sector since 2016 through direct support to the Mine Detection Center (MDC) Polyclinic in Kabul. The services of this clinic are free of charge and encompass the full spectrum of services ranging from physical health to psychosocial counselling for all segments of the population.

In October 2022, with the support of other donor countries, ITF started to implement a second victims assistance project aiming to provide emergency mobile physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support across Kabul, Kandahar, and Nimroz Provinces.

Mr. President,

We are convinced that the adoption of this resolution will provide an updated political, humanitarian and developmental framework for future dialogue with and on Afghanistan towards addressing the needs of Afghan people.

I thank you.

