



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
39th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

**Interactive dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
on the situation of human rights in Yemen**

Geneva, 25 September 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

Slovenia thanks the High Commissioner for Human Rights for his report containing the findings of the Group of Independent Eminent International and Regional Experts on the Situation of human rights in Yemen.

We are concerned at the findings of the Group of Experts that most civilian casualties were caused by the indiscriminate airstrikes by the coalition forces on residential areas, markets, funerals, weddings, detention facilities civilian boats and even medical facilities. Based on the findings of the Group of Experts there is reasonable ground to believe that individuals in the Government of Yemen and the coalition may have conducted attacks in violation of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution that may amount to war crimes. Also individuals in Houthi and Saleh forces have committed acts that may amount to war crimes, including cruel treatment and torture and conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 or using them to participate actively in hostilities

Furthermore we are deeply concerned about information in the report indicating all sides have recruited and used children to participate actively in armed conflict and other hostilities.

As the human rights and humanitarian situation in Yemen further deteriorates and the responsibility for civilian casualties requires further investigation, we call on all States to support the extension of the mandate of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts with a view to ending impunity.

We see the only possible way for the solution of the conflict in the inclusive political dialogue between all parties involved and we strongly support the endeavours of the UN Special Envoy for Yemen Mr Martin Griffiths.

I thank you, Mr President