



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

**Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on
the Syrian Arab Republic**

Geneva, 2 July 2019

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

Slovenia thanks the Commission for its oral update and would like to express its continued support to the Commission's work.

We remain deeply concerned about the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, which needs continuous attention of the Human Rights Council. We are alarmed by the continued systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of human rights in Syria. Any use of chemical weapons is strictly prohibited and thus constitutes serious violation of international law. The Commission's work continues to play a vital role in documenting and highlighting these violations. Justice for victims and accountability for the violations must be ensured and we consider the work of the Commission and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism crucial in this regard.

We therefore urge all parties to fully cooperate with the Commission, as well as with other human rights mechanisms. We also underline the obligation and the need for all parties to ensure immediate and unhindered access for humanitarian aid to populations in need.

We are concerned about the reports on systematic pattern of detention, arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearances. We join the calls to end the practice of arbitrary detention and condemn enforced disappearances. We urge Syrian authorities to actively search and investigate the cases of missing persons and to provide information on missing and detained persons to their families.

Women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities who are internally displaced are among the most vulnerable to violence and abuse and bear the brunt of this conflict. It is crucial that a political solution to the conflict in line with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) is reached through an inclusive negotiation process which would ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders, with equal voice and meaningful participation of women, with the aim of building a sustainable and resilient future Syrian society.

Thank you!