



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the  
**44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child: Realizing the rights of the child  
through a healthy environment**

*Geneva, 1 July 2020*

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Madam Vice-President,

We thank the speakers for their valuable contribution on this panel. Our discussions today show how crucial safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is for health and overall development of children.

Today's call to action is issued by children themselves. They are not the same generation as we were. They take the streets, they pursue knowledge and they demand change – and they have every right to do so. Slovenia is therefore proud to be able to support initiatives aimed at empowering children voices in environmental action, like the Children's Environmental Rights Initiative under the leadership of Special Rapporteur Boyd and the civil society or the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action signed at COP25 in Madrid. We welcome the work of different agencies, which are enabling amplification of children voices in environmental matters, such as UNEP and UNICEF.

On national level, realization of the rights of the child through a healthy environment in Slovenia is based on the Strategy for the health of children in relation to the environment for the period 2012–2020.

On the global level, our work is directed to green future through present actions. Together with other members of the core group on human rights and the environment, Slovenia has started a process of informal consultations on the recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on a global level. We believe this recognition would have numerous positive effects, such as strengthening of environmental laws and policies, improving implementation and facilitating greater public participation, including of children. We look forward to working with partners to bring tangible results for a greener future.

Thank you.