

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues**

Geneva, 15 March 2021

Mr Special Rapporteur,

We would like to thank you for your report, which addresses the issue of hate speech in social media targeting minorities as an increasingly worrying phenomenon. Preventing and countering the spread of hate speech online is indeed an emerging challenge that has been further aggravated by the COVID–19 pandemic.

Slovenia is aware of the complexity of the problem that requires a multilayer approach involving institutional attention to the persons belonging to minorities in the context of hate speech at national, regional and international level. We strongly believe that a human rights-compliant mode is the right way to address hate speech targeting minorities as it contributes to reinforcing unity and inclusion while ensuring respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression. We further believe that prevention is essential and that this problem needs to be tackled through educational and other strategies promoting cultural diversity, tolerance and inclusion.

As a member of the HRC core group on minorities, Slovenia remains fully committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Finally, we would like to reiterate Slovenia's further support for your work and mandate.

Thank you.