

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**49th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**

Geneva, 10 March 2022

Mister Special Rapporteur,

We would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for support and work on the issue of the link between human rights and the environment.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

Mr Boyd,

We thank you for your report and presentation today on human rights in relation to a non-toxic environment. We highly appreciate your work on thematic reports and generally on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In your report, you describe in detail a worrying toxification of our planet and people. This is an important wake-up call for both the States and the businesses that bear an important responsibility in managing pollution and toxic substances.

According to your report, a non-toxic environment is a key element of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The recent recognition of this right within the HRC proves that countries increasingly recognise the mutual correlation between environmental degradation, climate change and enjoyment of human rights.

Nevertheless, we all need to do more, especially by raising the level of responsible conduct by the international community as a whole and by encouraging the UN Member States to take the necessary steps forward.

Mr. Boyd, in conclusion, please allow me to touch upon the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine is in an environmental crisis too. Russia’s attack is literally tearing the country apart, polluting air and water. In particular, we strongly condemn Russia’s attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which can have not only immense consequences for the people, but could also have lasting and devastating impact for the environment in Ukraine, neighbouring countries and whole Europe.

We acknowledge that everyone, everywhere, has the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a public good that is essential for wellbeing of all people.

Thank you!