

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

**50th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women**

***Geneva, 16 June 2022***

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns with the statement of the EU. We thank the members of the Working Group for their work and for their latest report.

Girls and young women around the world are agents of change. When they take up their activist role, addressing topics ranging from social and economic inequalities to peace-building and conflict resolution, they can bring about transformative change in their local, national and international communities.

The empowerment of girls and young women through the respect, protection and fulfilment of their fundamental human rights is an indispensable precondition for just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies and the achievement of gender equality.

Their important contribution was recently seen also in Slovenia; where their activism contributed to amending the definition of rape in the Criminal Code under the model “only yes means yes” and towards abolishment of the changes proposed by the government to amend the Water Act.

Slovenia strongly condemns reprisals against girls' and young women's activists, including those engaging with the UN mechanisms. Protection from reprisals remains fundamental for girls’ and young women’s activism to thrive.

Dear Members of the Working group,

How do you foresee greater engagement of girls' and young women in the work of the United Nations? Could you offer any recommendations in this regard?

Thank you!