

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Urgent Debate on the situation of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan**

***Geneva, 1 July 2022***

Mr President,

Distinguished speakers,

Slovenia would like to thank the esteemed speakers for their valuable contributions to this urgent debate. We align with the EU statement and would like to deliver the following remarks in our national capacity.

Today we address the most serious women’s rights crisis in the world where women and girls have been systematically oppressed and eradicated from the public life. They are denied their right to education, right to work, access to health services, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and civil and political rights, including their right to full, equal and meaningful participation in public life.

**We can nothing but strongly condemn** measures that de facto government has imposed on women since August 2021 that have been characterized as “institutionalization of large scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls”.

Slovenia is deeply concerned by the ongoing humanitarian and financial crisis in Afghanistan, which is disproportionately harming women and girls, especially women-headed households, households where women were the primary wage-earners, older women, women with disabilities, and women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities.

We express condolences to the families of the victims and to the survivors of the June 2022 earthquake in eastern Afghanistan. We fear that the consequences are likely to exacerbate the humanitarian catastrophe and disproportionately impact women and girls, including due to Taliban-created barriers to women and girls accessing health care and to women aid workers performing their duties;

Mr President,

justice and human rights are indispensable for durable economic, political and security settlement in Afghanistan. How could a country where over a million girls cannot access education ever achieve sustainable peace and stability?

Thank you.