Statement by

**Austria, Croatia and Slovenia**

at the

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

**Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women**

***Panel 1: Exploring the nexus between climate change and violence against***

***women and girls through a human rights lens***

Geneva, 27 June 2022

Excellencies,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Austria, Croatia and my own country, Slovenia. We feel strongly encouraged by the important contributions made at today’s panel.

Inclusion and participation of women and girls should be encouraged at all levels and in all spheres. Austria, Croatia and Slovenia are proud to have significant ratios of women representatives in national legislative bodies.

We cannot talk about the nexus between climate change and violence against women and girls without highlighting the situation of internally displaced women and girls. Disasters caused the majority of internal displacements last year and the adverse effects of climate change are increasingly contributing to displacement. Displaced women and girls are at a particular risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking.

We support mitigation initiatives that identify and address gender-specific impacts of climate change particularly in areas related to water, food security, agriculture, energy, health, disaster management and conflict. We strongly believe in the need for gender-transformative decision-making processes, including in the field of climate change.

HRC 48/13 on the recognition of the right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment recognizes that the consequences of environmental damage are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including women and girls.

We would like to stress the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women of all ages, including older women, in all their diversity, who should not be left behind. Violence against them remains largely invisible, while they are facing both gender and age-based discrimination. While they might be out of sight due to the lack of consistent gender and age disaggregated data, we would be very much interested about the opinions of the panel on this topic.

Our three countries strongly condemn reprisals and violence against women’s rights organisations, women human rights defenders as well as women peacebuilders, including those engaging with the UN mechanisms.

Thank you.