

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on her Annual Report**

***Geneva, 14 June 2022***

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to deliver the following remarks in its national capacity.

Madame High Commissioner,

my delegation would like to thank you for your timely report on the recent human rights developments around the world. In order to respect, protect and fulfil the universal human rights, it is of utmost importance for all UN member states to foster a close collaboration with your Office, including through full and unrestricted access as this is a prerequisite for engagement in sincere, open, inclusive and transparent dialogue.

Madame High Commissioner,

Last Friday, on the occasion of the Pride Month, a rainbow flag has for the first time in Slovenia’s history fluttered in front of our ministry of foreign affairs and other governmental buildings. The flag by itself is a symbol, but the message that it carries is much more far-reaching.

While a considerable progress has been achieved in the recent years in regards to ensuring human rights for all, including LGBTI persons, discrimination, hate speech and stigmatization are still present. We must do everything to ensure equal treatment of all people without discrimination on any grounds.

My delegation welcomes your continuous engagement on the issue of non-discrimination. We would like to thank you and your Office for your work in this regard, including in the field of awareness-raising and promotion of human rights education.

Slovenia sees human rights education as a central tool to respectful and peaceful society. Our flagship educational programme “Our Rights” has been introduced in over 26 countries around the world, while we are currently starting to implement the programme among the Ukrainian refugee children in Slovenia. Children, who just like any other children, should not have been forced to flee their homes due to a senseless and unprovoked military aggression.

Thank you.