

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender equality**

***Geneva, 16 June 2022***

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement. We thank the Independent Expert for his report and presentation today.

**Despite many efforts** to improve the situation of LGBTI persons, they continue to face prejudice, stigma, discrimination, hate speech and even violence, criminalization and deprivation of liberty. This consequently results in social and economic exclusion, poverty and personal distress.

**We welcome the focus of your latest report, which is timely. The main aim of the SDGs is to leave no one behind. In this respect, we should address obstacles and challenges for the implementation of the** right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for LGBTI persons on national levels. **We especially acknowledge the courage of human rights defenders, which have an important role in advocating for respect for, and non-discrimination of the rights of the LGBTI persons.**

Fight against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is not merely an individual fight, but a collective effort to eliminate widespread discrimination and preserve human dignity. Slovenia remains a strong supporter of your mandate and your work.

In the connection with your report, we would like to ask you how can SDG3 be effectively implemented in situations where discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender equality is deeply rooted in social norms and with the absence of proper legal protection in line with the international human rights standards?

Thank you.