

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

**51st Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner for Human Rights oral presentation**

**on the situation of human rights in Ukraine**

***Geneva, 4 October 2022***

Mr President,

Slovenia would like to thank the Acting High Commissioner for her update. We align with the EU statement.

My delegation is gravely concerned by the findings of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and condemns in the strongest terms armed attacks by Russia against a sovereign nation. Slovenia wishes to declare that the results of illegal sham “referenda” conducted in parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine have **no legal effect** and **will not be recognised**. Any annexation of a State’s territory by another State resulting from the threat or use of force is a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Time and again, Slovenia expresses our grave concern over reports on growing number of civilian casualties, especially persons in situations of vulnerability. Today, I would like to shed a particularly bright light at the very often invisible groups in situations of vulnerability – **older persons**.

Numerous cases of deaths of older persons have been documented purely due to the **dire humanitarian situation** in areas affected by hostilities, as they lack access to healthcare, adequate housing, heating, water and electricity.

Many older persons, majority of them older women, were unable to leave their homes, while some have tried to escape the war and became **IDPs**. Countless have been forced to return to unsafe areas because they were unable to afford living in more peaceful areas.

**Indiscriminate attacks** by the Russian armed forces have hit long-term facilities and destroyed homes of generations of Ukrainians.

Slovenia, time and again, calls upon Russia to immediately cease their military aggression and pleads the Council to pay particular attention to the lives, dignity and human rights of often overseen populations.

Thank you.