

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**51th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation**

Geneva, 14 September 2022

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

Mr Special Rapporteur,

We thank you for your report and presentation today on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of indigenous peoples.

We believe that no one should be discriminated against when accessing water and sanitation. It is upon states to bear in mind the importance of the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous peoples, including the full and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them directly, and consultation in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent. Indigenous human rights defenders play an important role in this regard.

Nevertheless, we all need to do more, especially by raising the level of responsible conduct by the international community as a whole and by encouraging the UN Member States to take the necessary steps forward.

Mr Agudo, in conclusion, Slovenia acknowledges that everyone, everywhere, has the right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a right, which includes safe drinking water and sanitation, a public good that is essential for life, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.