

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Item 2: General Debate on High Commissioner's oral update**

Geneva, 13 September 2022

Mr President,

Madame Acting High Commissioner,

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

At the beginning, we would like to commend the important work of your Office in the last months not only here in Geneva, but most importantly on the ground.

The international community finds itself in the midst of long-lasting and multi-faceted great challenges - the triple planetary crisis, food crisis, persistent systemic inequalities, shrinking democratic and civic space, gender-based discrimination and violence, civilian suffering in devastating armed conflicts. We need to respond to those challenges with a human rights-based approach and inclusive, gender-sensitive policies and measures.

In developing our response, we must take advantage of the vast amount of information and knowledge of your Office. The Human Rights Council needs an Office with a strong voice - on preventive role of human rights, on promotion of human rights and on the justice and accountability for gross violations of international human rights law. The reports and assessments of your Office are indispensable.

Reports of your local Office in Ukraine are essential for our understanding of the consequences of Russian illegal aggression and accountability for gross human rights violations and mass atrocities.

While the early preventive action sometimes fail us, accountability for violations is critical for prevention of further violations, conflict and violence, building and sustaining of peace and achievement of inclusive development. International community must increase its support for international and national investigations and help close the impunity gap and ensure accountability.

I thank you.