

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine**

***Geneva, 23 September 2022***

Excellencies,

Slovenia would like to thank the members of the Commission of Inquiry for their update. We align with the EU statement and would like to deliver the following remarks in our national capacity.

Time and again, we express our condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Reports of mass graves in the newly liberated areas around Izyum are a matter of great concern. Civilian casualties and the suffering of civilians, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, must come to an end immediately.

The evidence on the ground, provided by the Office of the High Commissioner and the Commission of Inquiry, paints a horrific image of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that may amount to war crimes.

It is of utmost importance that the evidence related to such crimes is collected, consolidated, and analysed by an independent and reliable body. The international community must ensure accountability for the violations through national, regional, and international efforts in order to close the impunity gap.

Slovenia considers it essential to adopt the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crimes of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, and War Crimes, also known as the MLA initiative. On this occasion, we call for the adoption of the Convention, which would substantially enhance the ability of states to prosecute atrocity crimes at the domestic level and put an end to the impunity of their perpetrators.

Thank you.