

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the**

**UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict**

Geneva, 16 March 2023

Excellencies,

We would like to thank the Special Representative for her report and presentation today. Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and the statement of the Group of Friends of CAAC and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity.

Madame Special Representative,

Slovenia welcomes your increased engagement with States and international organizations in the effort to end and prevent grave violations against children and strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

We are deeply concerned by the findings of your reports outlining the six grave violations against children living in conflict zones, but remain of firm belief that the work of your Office contributes to building global alliances. Slovenia strongly supports **the Paris Principles** and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, **the Safe Schools Declaration** and **the Vancouver Principles** on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers and calls on other States to do the same.

Madame Special Representative,

As a strong advocate of child protection, Slovenia provides sustainable political, technical and financial support for numerous programmes of reintegration, comprehensive rehabilitation health-care and psychosocial services, including the provision of mental health services, for children from Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Belarus and Afghanistan.

Continued trends of killing and maiming of children by explosive weapons and remnants of war, including improvised explosive devices, landmines and bombs are a matter of utmost concern. Slovenia continues to endorse the land mine clearance projects of the **ITF Enhancing Human Security** across conflict and post-conflict zones.

Thank you.