

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue on the situation of the human rights in Afghanistan**

***Geneva, 6 March 2023***

Mr President,

We align with the EU statement and would like to deliver the following remarks in our national capacity.

Slovenia would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report to the Council. We welcome his commitment and the missions he has undertaken in Afghanistan in 2022. Meetings with human rights defenders, women's groups, victims of human rights violations, journalists and others importantly contribute to our understanding of the situation on the ground.

We share his concern that the human rights crisis in Afghanistan has only worsened and that systemic violations of the human rights of women and girls has deepened even further. Ban of access to public spaces such as parks, gyms and public baths, followed by the suspension of women's access to universities has devastating consequences.

Furthermore, barring women working for the domestic and international NGOs has led to a severe impact on the life-saving humanitarian services they used to provide.

Slovenia is alarmed by the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the grave violations committed against children, including recruitment and use of children as soldiers, attacks on schools and use of schools for military purposes.

Mr President,

The compounded economic, humanitarian and human rights crisis are leaving the Afghanistan's society in shatters, undermining their capacity to move towards peace and development.

Slovenia urges the Taliban to reverse the systematic gender-based discrimination and ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in public life, education and work.

Thank you.