

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

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

Geneva, 7 March 2023

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to deliver the following remarks in our national capacity on the eve of International Women’s Day.

Mr High Commissioner,

Your call this morning has been heard loudly and clearly, urgent need to protect civilians, systemic discrimination of women and girls, rising inequalities, limitations of civic space and looming triple planetary crisis demand that we integrate human rights into every solution we develop. We need a decisive shift to an **inclusive society**. Allow us to share a few examples.

**The** **triple planetary crisis leads to disproportionate harms on women and girls** threatening their human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. By empowering women and girls to fully, equally and meaningfully participate in the environmental decision-making processes, adaptation and mitigation policies will be more inclusive. As a member of the Multi-stakeholder Coalition on Gender Equality in the Water Domain, Slovenia will contribute financially to the development and launch of a "community of practice" digital platform dedicated to the communication of the Coalition initiatives and for interaction between its members.

**Right to education is still far from a reality for many girls and women**, as discriminatory practices limit them from exercising their right to participate in, complete and benefit from education. Since 2005 Slovenia offers a human rights education project "Our Rights". It is currently implemented in several regions and ensures empowerment of girls and young women to stand up for their rights.

**Rapid technological break-throughs are leading to unprecedented scientific developments, yet can also cause major harm to the enjoyment of human rights and jeopardize the principle of non-discrimination**. Slovenia works with UNESCO to broaden our understanding of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, ensure that gender stereotyping and discriminatory biases are not translated into AI systems, and proactively address violence such as harassment, bullying or trafficking of girls and women in the online domain.

I thank you.