

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice**

Geneva, 3 March 2023

Mister President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the EU and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset**,** allow me to express Slovenia’s deep concern about the **deterioration** of the **human rights** situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and about the **escalation of violence**, resulting in high number of civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects.

We call on all parties to respect international human rights and humanitarian law. Protection of civilians must be ensured and the alleged violations must be thoroughly, independently and impartially investigated and prosecuted in order to address the observed lack of **accountability** and ensure access to justice for all victims.

Slovenia reiterates its condemnation of **Israeli settlement** expansion and legalization in the West Bank, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property, including punitive demolitions, and **arbitrary detentions**, including detentions of children. We call on Israel to end **collective punishment** including lifting a blockade of Gaza. We also encourage cooperation of all parties with the OHCHR, including by **granting visas** to the international staff in order to access the OPT.

Slovenia denounces the use of **capital punishment** in all cases and under all circumstances and strongly condemns the execution of prisoners by de facto authorities in Gaza.

Mister President,

The only lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is **a two-state** solution which takes into account aspiration of both parties to the conflict – peace, security and statehood.

At the end, allow me to reconfirm Slovenia's support to the **International Court of Justice** and international law as the cornerstone of international order.

Thank you.