

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

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

***Geneva, 20 March 2023***

Excellencies,

Slovenia aligns with the EU statement and would like to thank the members of the Commission of Inquiry for their update also in our national capacity.

Distinguished Commissioners,

Slovenia is appalled by the findings of your report, painting a devastating image of the scale and severity of the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in many regions of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation by the Russian authorities. We condemn wilful killings, attacks on civilians, unlawful confinement, torture, rape, and forced transfers and deportations of children.

Speaking of children, Slovenia is highly disturbed by the testimonies on large-scale violations against them. Millions are displaced, many of them are at risk of human trafficking, exploitation, conflict-related sexual violence and forced deportations. Hundreds of schools and hospitals, on which they depend, are damaged or destroyed. They are deeply traumatised by the war and the violence. Their childhood is over, forever. This calls for our urgent attention.

We are particularly alarmed by the conclusion of the Commission that many of these violations amount to war crimes, while the attacks on energy-related infrastructure and use of torture may amount to crimes against humanity.

In this respect, Slovenia welcomes the decision of the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant against Putin over war crimes allegations, in relation to the forced deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year-long Russian aggression against Ukraine must cease immediately, civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected now.

Slovenia calls for timely, effective and comprehensive accountability measures that will lead to criminal responsibility and justice for victims, many of whom are children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and minorities.

The work of the Commission of Inquiry is unfortunately far from its conclusion, which is why Slovenia will strongly support the renewal of the mandate.

I thank you.