

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

**53rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Enhanced Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**

*Geneva, 19 June 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 and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls for their report to the Council. Slovenia fully supports the work of both special procedures.

We are deeply concerned by the systematic and progressive denial of human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. The measures undertaken by the Taliban curtailing their political, economic and social participation amount to their *de facto* erasure from public life in the country. These measures directly contravene the human rights covenants and conventions that Afghanistan is party to. Such policies, furthermore, deprive Afghanistan and its people of the potential for development and prosperity as progress cannot be achieved by the persecution of half of the country's population.

Mr Special Rapporteur,

The deteriorating situation requires urgent action and legal accountability. Could you elaborate what avenues of legal accountability, including through international courts, could the Member States explore?

Thank you.