Statement by

**Austria, Croatia and Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**

Geneva, 27 June 2023

Excellencies,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of Austria, Croatia, and my own country, Slovenia.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his latest report on climate change induced displacement. Your report sheds light on options to address climate-induced displacement and its disproportionate effects, particularly on women and children. It is worrying to read that the number of people displaced due to climate change is rapidly rising, with women and children constituting the majority of those affected.

Special Rapporteur,

Communities already burdened by poverty and inequality bear the heaviest burden of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation, leading to displacement. Women across their life course, in particular, face heightened vulnerabilities, including increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation, and disrupted access to education and health care and services.

To address these challenges, we must adopt a comprehensive human rights based approach that takes into account both mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and robust adaptation strategies. We support mitigation and adaptation initiatives that take into account gender, age and disability dimensions and tackle the gender-specific impacts of climate change.

Efforts need to encompass more resilient infrastructure, the establishment of strong early warning systems, and the full, equal and meaningful participation and empowerment of women and girls in decision-making processes. We firmly believe in the necessity of gender-transformative decision-making in the realm of climate change.

Together, we must shape a future where the effects of climate-induced displacement are minimized, and where the rights and dignity of all individuals are upheld.

Thank you.