

Statement by the

**Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on**

**Violence against Women and Girls, its Causes and Consequences**

Geneva, 22/23 June 2023

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement. We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and presentation.

The report closely examines how a discredited pseudo-concept of parental alienation continues to have negative effect in judicial proceedings in custody cases worldwide when mothers allege domestic violence and abuse. Such pseudo-concept can gain traction due to the prejudice and stereotyping depicting women as vengeful and unreliable witnesses.

We concur with the Special Rapporteur on the need to focus on facts and contexts of each custody case with allegations of domestic and/or sexual abuse and the need to use qualified and professionally regulated experts in the relevant judicial proceedings.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

We would like to ask for your view on how to formulate effective and dissuasive sanctions for the abuse of parental alienation allegations as a means to minimize the evidence of domestic violence in custody cases.

Thank you.