

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on**

**the situation of human rights in Belarus**

Geneva, 5 July 2023

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

Slovenia is concerned about continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Belarus. We strongly condemn the crack down on representatives of the civil society, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders and environmental human rights defenders, journalists, political opponents, members of trade unions, lawyers, and persons belonging to national minorities and their organizations.

We support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and call on Belarus to implement the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations and to grant the mandate holder unrestricted access to Belarus.

We urge for the release of all political and other prisoners unjustly imprisoned for legitimately exercising their human rights. As many of them were sentenced to death, Slovenia deplores the continued use of the death penalty in all circumstances and calls for an immediate moratorium.

Last but not least, we call on Belarusian authorities to stop enabling Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

*what more can international society do to hold*  *the perpetrators of international human rights law violations* *in Belarus to account?*

Thank you!