

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

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

**Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner for Human Rights oral presentation**

**on the situation of human rights in Ukraine**

*Geneva, 12 July 2023*

Mr President,

We align with the EU statement. We would like to thank the High Commissioner for his update.

Slovenia reaffirms unwavering support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

As highlighted in the latest High Commissioner’s report, Russian Federation and Ukraine need to ensure unrestricted access for human rights monitoring mechanisms to all territories, including with the access to conflict-related detainees in places of detention.

The findings of the report raise significant concerns, especially in regards to de facto security detentions by the Russian Federation in the occupied territories of Ukraine that fail to take into account international humanitarian law safeguards, and as such constitute arbitrary detention. We further fear that the failure to ensure due process and guarantees to protect civilians, actively lead to enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence.

Slovenia calls for effective, prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of all violations. Violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be recognised and addressed, while access to justice, fair trial rights, and accountability should be prioritised to ensure that victims of violations find effective remedies and perpetrators are held accountable. We believe that the recently adopted Ljubljana-The Hague Convention will contribute to these efforts.

Mr High Commissioner,

In your report, you mention the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other impartial humanitarian organizations to carry out the duties incumbent on the Protecting Powers as outlined in the Geneva Conventions. Could you elaborate on the complementarity of the work of your Office with their efforts?

Thank you.