

Statement by the

**Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women**

**Panel 1: Gender-based violence against women and girls in public and political life**

Geneva, 30 June 2023

Mr. President,

We welcome today's discussion.

The international community recognized decades ago that the only path to sustainable peace and development is through engagement and participation of women in all aspects of life, including in leadership positions. Change, however, has been slow.

In Slovenia, young women and girls today have more role models in public and political life than ever before. Women are present and active in media, civil society, politics, science, diplomacy, army, economy etc. Last year first woman was elected President. The future looks brighter because of the contribution these women will make to our political, economic, cultural and other societal landscapes and because the girls following in their footsteps will be empowered to expect their equal and just place in society.

There is however, a growing global trend of harassment, sexist hate speech, intimidation and violence targeting women who are active in political and public life. These are encouraged by persisting gender stereotypes and sexism, and further amplified in digital spaces. The cowardly attacks on women's dignity and freedom of expression and opinion must be addressed through prevention and/or prosecution. It is also vital that relevant public figures, including men, publicly engage in condemnation of such incidents.

The fight against gender stereotypes and sexism and mainstreaming gender equality into all policies and measures is among the priority goals of the strategic documents of the Government of Slovenia. A new Resolution on the National programme for equal opportunities of women and men for the period until 2030 will keep this issue in focus.

Thank you.