STALNO PREDSTAVNIŠTVO REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE PRI URADU ZDRUŽENIH NARODOV IN OSTALIH MEDNARODNIH ORGANIZACIJAH V ŽENEVI

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

34rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Geneva, 15 March 2017

Statement by Slovenia

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and would like to add some remarks in its national capacity.

Ms Izsák,

We would like to thank you for your presentation and as your mandate is coming to an end we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your valuable work as a Special Rapporteur on minority issues. Your latest report highlights worrisome developments concerning minority issues in the last six years.

Minorities remain among the poorest and the most socially and economically excluded and marginalized communities globally. We are particularly troubled by the resurgence of movements fuelled by racial, religious, national or ethnic hatred as well as of occurrences of advocating xenophobia and demonizing vulnerable groups by political actors.

Ethnic, religious and other minorities are also disproportionately affected in situations of humanitarian crises and are often overrepresented among the internally displaced persons. Furthermore, statelessness, the denial of right to education as well as the denial of healthcare are all pressing issues for minority communities. In this regard, we would like to underline the obligation of States to protect the rights of all persons under their jurisdiction.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

During your mandate you observed the lack of minority presence in political and public life and often emphasized the role of minorities in advocating for their rights. In your opinion, what are the best tools for empowering minority rights defenders?

Finally, let me express our full support to your mandate and its extension.

Thank you!