



**34th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Item 2 - Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**9 March 2017**

**Statement by Slovenia**

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

Mr High Commissioner,

We thank you for your comprehensive overview of the human rights situation around the world. We welcome your observations on certain positive developments and join you in expressing deep concern over the human rights pushbacks.

We share your concerns over the dismantling progress made on **gender equality** worldwide. Slovenia remains strong opponent of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls and will continue ensuring their full empowerment.

We are worried about your report on restrictions and persecution the **civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers** continue to face. It is our firm belief that we have to ensure and protect the inclusive dialogue on human rights, where civil society has the space to freely express its views and criticism.

Mr High Commissioner,

Slovenia shares your concern about the resumption of executions and intentions of reinstating capital punishment in some countries. We urge states to continue the path of the worldwide trend towards **abolition of the death penalty**.

In conclusion, Mr High Commissioner, let me express our full support to the independence of your mandate and gratitude for your **tireless work and the work of your office**. By giving voice to the victims of human rights violations and abuses and pointing to the early warning signs of possible grave and systematic violations of human rights you make an invaluable contribution to human rights, peace and security. As you have so rightly put it only through our joint efforts we will be able to overcome the global challenges and ensure a better and brighter future for all.

Thank you!