**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**36th session**

**Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 27 September 2017**

**Statement by the Republic of Slovenia**

Mr President,

First, let me thank the Independent Expert for his report and presentation today. Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity:

We note that in the past year some efforts were made by the Government of the Sudan to improve human rights situation in the country. However, we are concerned by the number of human rights issues pointed out in the latest report of the Independent Expert.

We share the concerns of others on reposts on harassment of human rights defenders and on curtailment of civil society actors, ongoing censorship of newspapers and restrictions on journalists as well as on harassment of Darfuri students. We are also concerned by the lack of protection of civilian in conflict-affected areas and prevalence of the culture of impunity in the country.

In this regard Slovenia would like to reiterate that the Government of the Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect its population. We support the Independent Expert's call on the need for the Government of Sudan to take effective measures to address the serious institutional gaps in the justice and security sectors in order to promote respect for rule of law and protection of human rights.

Mr Independent Expert,

In some parts of your report you mentioned the situation of women in the country, such as incidences of sexual and gender-based violence in and around IDP camps in Darfur. You also recommended to the Government to accede to CEDAW Convention. Could you briefly point out to the main human rights issues of women in the country? We would also appreciate your views on possible ways to increase their participation, since they are important actors for the sustainable peace and prosperity?

Thank you!