**36th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**

**Statement by Slovenia**

Mr President, distinguished panellists,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and statement delivered by Switzerland on behalf of Austria, Liechtenstein and Slovenia.

At first, I wish to reiterate Slovenia's full support to the UPR process and determination to implement 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, including SDG5 on empowerment of women. Slovenia fully participates in the UPR process and has also made its first voluntary national presentation on implementation of 2030 Agenda at the High Level Political Forum this July. In line with our priorities in development cooperation, we are considering ways of increasing the proportion of our ODA in support of programmes for mainstreaming women's empowerment and gender equality, including SRHR. Our target is to mainstream and prioritise 60% of our bilateral ODA for gender equality and women's empowerment by 2030.

The UPR process has been in our focus since its first cycle. We have been focusing on gender equality, human rights of women and girls also in our interventions, questions and recommendations to other countries under review. As our own national experience shows, UPR recommendations on gender equality and empowerment of women have been influencing our national policies. For example, recommendations that we received during our review in 2nd cycle, have contributed to the ratification of the Istanbul convention .We believe that many other countries have also paid special attention to the UPR recommendations on human rights of women and girls.

[As you have pointed out in your presentations,] SDGs are grounded in human rights. The promise to leave no one behind is also a call for action to ensure that all women and girls are able to enjoy their rights. As it has been stressed before, investing in gender equality is important not only for achieving SDG5 but also for realization of the whole agenda.

In efforts to increase the impact of both, UPR recommendations and 2030 Agenda, we believe that through searching for inter-linkages and highlighting human rights dimension of SDG goals and targets also in the UPR process can contribute to ensuring better policies and actions for gender equality.

Distinguished panellists,

Slovenia would welcome your views on how gender responsive reporting in UPR as well as on SDG implementation can be better ensured.

Thank you!