



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia

at the
**37th Session of the Human Rights Council -
High-level panel discussion on the seventieth anniversary of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna
Declaration and Programme of Action**

Geneva, 28 February 2018

Mr President,

We warmly welcome the opportunity to commemorate and celebrate the jubilee of two documents of highest relevance to our work in the Human Rights Council.

UDHR has been established as the founding pillar of the law of human rights. Its strong focus on the inviolability of human dignity inspired the efforts of governments, international organisations, civil society, and individuals around the globe ever since.

The document itself carries a heavy moral debt. We must not forget that it was instigated by the outrage and alarm commanded by the atrocities of the Second World War, including the persecution and wide-spread abuses of human rights committed against the Jewish people, and other groups.

We should keep in mind that through our work in the Human Rights Council the ethical standards set by the Declaration are given life.

We must also not forget that the Universal Declaration is as relevant today, as it was after the Second World War.

25 years ago the UN Member States achieved consensus on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, affirming that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated.

It further paved the way for the creation of the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr President,

We would like to underline our full support for the work of the High Commissioner in the entire spectrum of his mandate, including his active role in removing the current obstacles, and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world.

At this opportunity allow me to conclude by commending Mr High Commissioner for his undeniable leadership in UN action on human rights.

Thank you.