Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
**37th Session of the Human Rights Council –
Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Geneva, 9 March 2018

Mr President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU, and would like to add the following in its national capacity:

Mr High Commissioner,

We would like to use this session's dialogue with you, which is taking place in midst of festivities on the 70th anniversary of UDHR, to emphasize the importance of human rights framework built in the last seven decades.

In your speech you have portrayed the current state of respect for human rights around the world. Abuses and violations of human rights can be prevented from happening only by implementation of this framework.

My country would like to join you in standing up for women's rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. We remain concerned over increasingly regressive trends in this area. We would like to stress our full support to women's rights movements, from those who have attributed to rising this issue to prominence in the past, as well as to those whose courage to speak on abuse and sexual exploitation of women was more recent.

We cannot overlook the on-going targeting of human rights defenders, civil society activists, journalists, and others, who raise their voices about different human rights violations and abuses. Their intimidation and harassment are unacceptable.

As we have stated already in our interventions in these dialogues' in recent years, it is crucial for member states to consistently work on the improvement of human rights. Slovenia recognizes that much of the goals we have achieved in recent years would have not been achieved without active and vibrant support from our civil society.

Mr High Commissioner,

Let me end this intervention by stressing our unwavering support to your Office, and to you! Your personal commitment to promotion and respect of human rights around the globe can serve as inspiration to everyone.

Thank you.