



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the  
**39<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
**Item 4 – General Debate**

Geneva, 18 September 2018

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Mr President,

*[Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.]*

Slovenia is a staunch supporter of this Council's responsiveness to the deteriorating human rights situations around the globe. It is a crucial part of the HRC's mandate and deserves our full attention.

We continue to closely follow the dire situation in the **Syrian Arab Republic**. We are deeply concerned about the increase in hostilities in the Syrian province of Idlib, the last remaining de-escalation zone, which has devastating impact on the civilian population, including on some 1.4 million internally displaced persons. We call on all parties to the conflict to comply with human rights obligations and international humanitarian law, and to work together to ensure an immediate cessation of hostilities and continue negotiations within the UN-led Geneva process.

The ongoing hostilities and human rights violations in the non-government controlled areas of **Ukraine** continue to be a cause of concern. All international human rights observers and monitoring mechanisms should be granted full, free and unhindered access to the entire territory of Ukraine, especially in the illegally annexed Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and the non-government controlled areas in the eastern Ukraine. We once again call for the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

Mr President,

We remain deeply concerned by the reports on grave human rights violations and abuses in **South Sudan**, in particular on grave violations against children in the country. We join others in the call to strengthen the efforts to ensure transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, including by establishing the hybrid court. While noting developments in the right direction in realizing human rights for the people in **Sudan**, we remain concerned by incidences of violence in Darfur in recent months, which cause new displacement of people. We remain concerned by the reports on persecution of human rights defenders and the persistence of restriction on freedom of expression in general.

We remain concerned about the ongoing political, economic and social crisis with its implications on humanitarian and human rights situation in **Venezuela**. Additionally to our previously expressed concerns, the scale of the food and health crises has a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable population, such as children and older persons. We commend the countries of the region for addressing the migration impacts of this multidimensional crisis. The government of Venezuela has to address the root causes of the food and health crises. We call upon the government to grant OHCHR full and unfettered access to the country and to fully cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms.

Mr President,

Lastly, we are concerned about the repression and violence in **Nicaragua**. Political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists and others are subjected to harassment, intimidation, criminalization and different types of reprisals. All human rights violations and abuses need to be thoroughly investigated and freedom of expression guaranteed. We call upon Nicaragua to resume its cooperation with the OHCHR as well as to cooperate with HRC Special Procedures and other HRC mandates, and their respective mandate holders.

Thank you!