



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

**Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights,
including through inclusive education**

Geneva, 4 March 2019

Mr President,

At the outset allow me to commend this year's full-day meeting on the rights of the child dedicated to the empowerment of children with disabilities, including through inclusive education. Although children with disabilities have the same rights as other children they are very often left behind. When discussing their wellbeing we often forget that despite their physical or mental impediments they have the right to express their opinion on matters affecting them.

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement; and would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

In Slovenia children with disabilities enjoy special care and protection, according to the Social Assistance Act. The need of deinstitutionalization is emphasized in several strategic documents, *such as the 2013 Resolution on the National Social Protection Programme and the 2018 Resolution on the National Program of Mental Health. The field of education of children with disabilities is regulated by the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act.* 90% of children with special educational needs in Slovenia enrol in educational programmes with adapted implementation and additional professional assistance. They are provided in kindergartens and schools in regular classes based on the concept of inclusive education.

In order to empower children with disabilities, their families and professionals dealing with them, several projects are under way in Slovenia, including on strengthening of competencies of professionals in comprehensive early treatment and establishing a network of professional institutions to support children with special needs and their families, on promotion of social inclusion of children and young people with special needs in the local environment, integrated treatment of children with emotional and behavioural disorders in educational institutions and on employment in support of educational institutions for working with children with special needs¹.

Slovenia believes that empowerment of all children, including those with disabilities, should be achieved also through human rights education. We would like to ask the distinguished panellists for possible examples of good practices developed for human rights education of children with disabilities.

Thank you.

¹ Ti projekti so:

1. A network of professional institutions to support children with special needs and their families
2. Promoting the social inclusion of children and young people with special needs in the local environment
3. Integrated treatment of children with emotional and behavioural disorders in educational institutions
4. Employing assistants for the work with children with special needs in educational institutions
5. Encouraging employment of young people in non-governmental organisations for the purpose of cooperation between educational institutions and non-governmental institutions in the field of work with children with special needs
6. A comprehensive early treatment of children with special needs and their families and strengthening the competencies of professionals