

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**46th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the Child
Theme: The rights of the child and the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Geneva, 1 March 2021*

Madame President,

I am very happy to speak in this important meeting on Children’s rights and Sustainable Development Goals. I speak on behalf of Slovenia's children. We believe it’s important to think about us children and our rights when trying to reach the SDGs by 2030. I find these goals extremely important and I wish globally no effort was spared to achieve them.

Slovenia has been working on fulfilling the SDGs and has included them in its own development strategy, and in its national implementing document of the 2030 Agenda. And we, Slovenian children, are eager to contribute towards achieving these goals.

I am told repeatedly, that children are an important part of society and its future, but all too often we feel overlooked.

## However, in my country there are organizations educating children about democracy and active citizenship, encouraging us to participate and are helping us be heard and be taken seriously. For more than 30 years the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth has been organizing a special program called Children's parliament. Children from the half of elementary schools in Slovenia participate in this program and exchange views on matters affecting us. I am happy to be part of it.

We believe that it is important for children to be involved in activities to achieve the SDGs as our generation will carry the consequences of decisions by today’s leaders. We see the world around us differently (as do adults) and I am certain that we have good ideas and innovative solutions.

We are also worried about the covid-19 health crisis and its impact on our lives. The only positive result from this pandemic is the reduction of pollution. Many things will need to be reconsidered; many things will have to be set up differently.

This is a new opportunity to give more emphasis on our involvement. Please make sure that nothing about us is decided without us. Thank you!