

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**

3 March 2021

Madame President,

Slovenia appreciates the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue of human rights and the environment. Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement.

Mr Boyd,

We thank you for your report and presentation today on Human rights and the global water crisis and on your engagement regarding the establishment of linkage between human rights and the environment.

As a member of the core group on human rights and the environment, Slovenia believes that safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is crucial to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. On this note we continue to join States, experts and civil society in the increasing calls and efforts for a global recognition of the right to healthy environment.

This call becomes even more crucial in the time of a devastating Covid-19 pandemic, which raises the importance of protecting the environment, animal species and their habitat to reduce risk of zoonotic diseases in order to minimize the impact of future pandemics.

We call upon all states to conserve, protect and restore healthy ecosystems and biodiversity and to ensure their sustainable use by applying a human-rights based approach.

Thank you!