

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

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

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict**

*Geneva, 8 March 2021*

Madame President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to thank the Special Representative for her report and presentation today. In addition, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Madame Special Representative,

For almost 30 years Slovenia has been committed to lessen the burden of children affected by armed conflict, especially by assistance to refugee minors who fled conflict zones and by supporting numerous projects that provide psychosocial and physical rehabilitation to children. This commitment was reconfirmed by the adoption of the national Resolution on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance which defines the assistance in armed conflicts, particularly for children, as one of priority areas in Slovenian humanitarian assistance.

Slovenia is appalled by the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing the lack of educational and other life opportunities for children, especially for poor children and children in conflict-affected areas. We strongly support the notion that all children, wherever they are, should experience a childhood free from violence and with access to education. All stakeholders in the international community should do their utmost to build a sustainable system that protects children at all times.

Madame Special Representative,

could you present examples of good practices that have been established on the basis of the *Practical guidance for mediators to protect children in situations of armed conflict*, that your Office launched last year?

Thank you.